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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

April 19, 2010

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 10-18

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CONSORTIUM MANAGERS

SUBJECT: FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS) CENSUS 2010
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT-EXCLUSION OF EARNED INCOME OF
TEMPORARY CENSUS EMPLOYEES

REFERENCE: FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008, SECTION 17(b)(1); ALL
COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 09-26

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

This letter provides information and instruction to counties regarding a demonstration project in the Food Stamp Program (FSP) to exclude earned income from temporary employment in the 2010 Census. The purpose of the demonstration project is to support the Census Bureau in recruitment and to assist individuals in obtaining valuable work experience. After consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) begins the 2010 Food Stamp Census Demonstration Project effective January 1, 2010. County Welfare Departments (CWDs) are to begin excluding income earned by census takers retroactive to January 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010. Although the demonstration project begins on January 1st of this year, the primary dates for Census 2010 operations are from March 1 through July 2010. Instruction provided in ACL 09-26 to treat census income as earned income in the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWorks) Program, Refugee Cash Assistance, and the Trafficking and Crime Victims' Assistance Program still applies.

The most active months for census workers will be April, May and June of 2010; therefore, it is not anticipated that much activity will have begun prior to April for CWDs.

For the FSP, Quarterly Reporting (QR) households are not required to report income from the census mid-quarter, but are required to report receipt of the income on the QR 7. However, certain households may need to report the income during the quarter as a result of the income reporting threshold in the CalWORKs Program. The impact to CWDs will begin with receipt of the February Data Month QR 7 received in March. The CWD will note the income and exclude it from eligibility determinations for the next QR Payment Quarter. The impact for Change Reporting Households could be immediate if temporary census income was received in January.

The FNS is also requiring the CDSS to provide the following information:

- The number of food stamp households that had census earnings excluded.
- The number of months the income was excluded.
- The total number of benefits issued.
- The total amount of Census income excluded.

The FNS has acknowledged that these data reporting requirements can place an additional administrative burden and is working on a plan to do a data match with social security numbers; however, when and until that match can be implemented, counties must flag any cases where income is earned from the Census Bureau in the qualified time period to report the information listed above.

Any additional information or clarifications we may receive from FNS will be sent to counties on a flow basis and/or through Question and Answer documents. If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact Alicia Thomason, Food Stamp Policy Implementation Unit, at (916) 657-2630 or by e-mail at: Alicia.thomason@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

CHARR LEE METSKER
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division