

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



April 13, 2000

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 00-26

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: POLICY ON CONDOMINIUM FEES

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

This is to inform counties that the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of the United States Department of Agriculture has revised its policy on the treatment of condominium fees. Currently only condominium fees that can be identified as fees for deductible household expenses (e.g., trash removal, water, sewerage, heating, cooling, gas, and the individual condominium unit and common area electrical costs) are allowed as shelter costs. Other condominium fees such as those for maintenance of the structure and grounds are not allowable shelter costs.

FNS has concluded that a policy change is needed to recognize that income spent on condominium fees is not available for purchasing food. Therefore, the policy has been changed to allow the entire condominium fee as a shelter cost. In addition, FNS has concluded that homeowner's association fees can be similarly claimed as a shelter cost for food stamp purposes. Counties are advised to implement this new policy effective May 1, 2000. Manual of Policies and Procedures 63-502.362(b) will be revised to reflect the new policy.

If you have any questions, please contact Ernie Villalobos, Analyst, Food Stamp Program Bureau, Policy Implementation Unit at (916) 657-1680.

Sincerely,

Original document signed by
Bruce Wagstaff on 4/13/00
BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division