

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-6907



February 16, 1979

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 79-10

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I OF THE FOOD STAMP ACT OF 1977

REFERENCE:

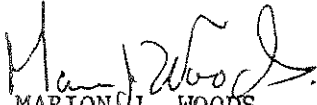
As you are aware from my telegram of February 6, 1979, we have delayed implementation of the Food Stamp Regulations from March 1 to April 1, 1979 because of inadequate supplies of federal forms. This is to make clear that implementation no later than April 1, 1979 is imperative. I have been informed that USDA is starting the sanction process against California to withhold both federal administrative cost funds and any funds that represent an overpayment to those people who would otherwise have become ineligible. We have assured USDA that since the federal forms are now arriving that we will begin certifying under the new rules as of April 1.

As you know, it is the department's position that the lack of forms was the only acceptable reason for the delay. Therefore, if any county fails to meet the April 1 date and California is in fact sanctioned for administrative and/or program costs, those costs will be passed along to the delinquent counties. In order to avoid this action I am requesting that you take all steps necessary for timely implementation. If you anticipate any problems please let me know as soon as possible so that we may assist you while there is still time.

You must also ensure the implementation of the Basel requirements of the regulations takes place by March 1 as specified in the February 6 telegram. California has already received formal warning of a one and a half million dollar fiscal sanction if this does not occur.

The Department of Social Services will be providing you with adequate supplies of the appropriate forms no later than March 15. It must also be remembered that there is a second critical date, June 30, 1979, for complete caseload conversion. I am requesting your written assurance in the form of an implementation plan within two weeks from receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,


MARION J. WOODS
Director

cc: Chairman, Board of Supervisors