

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



July 19, 1988

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 88-83

To: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

SUBJECT:: FOOD STAMP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM PLANNING  
GUIDELINES

REFERENCE: MPP 63-407  
ALL-COUNTY LETTER 87-67

The purpose of this letter is to provide Counties with Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) Program Planning Guidelines for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1989 (October 1, 1988 - September 30, 1989). It will be necessary for each County to develop and submit a plan of operation for the program by August 8, 1988. The County plans will be compiled into a State Plan that must be approved by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Attached are the FSET Planning Guidelines (Attachment I) which contain detailed descriptions of the FSET program requirements and plan formats. We regret the extremely tight timeframe for completion of the plans and appreciate your cooperation.

Funding for the FSET Program

The FNS provides a 100 percent Federal allocation for the administrative cost of the program. This year, California's Federal allocation is \$5,109,135.

If a County wants to provide services at a level exceeding its 100 percent allocation, additional funding is available at the 50 percent Federal Financial Participation (FFP) level. This will allow Counties to offer additional services with the additional costs being shared at the normal 50 percent Federal/25 percent State/25 percent County ratio. Counties may request approval from SDSS to operate a program which has costs in excess of the 100 percent Federal allocation. To the extent that proposed services are consistent with Federal requirements, requests will be forwarded to FNS for approval as part of the State Plan.

Attachment II contains County allocations for the period of October 1, 1988 through September 30, 1989. Each County's allocation represents a proportionate share of the 100 percent Federal allocation, based upon the percentage of nonassistance Food Stamp recipients in each County compared to the statewide total. Alternative allocation methodologies were considered, but due to the newness of the program and problems with statistical reporting, we believe this is the most equitable approach. In the event that some Counties become geographically exempt, their allocations will be redistributed to Counties that are operating the program. Please note that expenditures for EDP maintenance and operation are to be charged against each County's program allocation.

### Federal Performance Standards

The FNS will impose performance standards in the new FFY beginning October 1, 1988. The Secretary of Agriculture has established performance standards for States based on a percentage of registrants who are expected to participate who (1) actually do participate or (2) are sanctioned for nonparticipation. The standard to be imposed for FFY 1989 is 35 percent.

Fiscal sanctions may be imposed by FNS to the degree that the performance standard is not met. Along with the flexibility to design their FSET Programs, Counties also have the responsibility to meet the performance standards.

Federal determination of whether or not a State has met the performance standard will be largely based on the required quarterly statistical reports. These reports include data on the number of work registrants, notice of adverse action, reasons for deferrals, and placement of individuals in components. County reporting was seriously deficient in the first year of program operation. FNS has informed the Department that sanctions may occur if the accuracy and completeness of reporting does not improve.


County Plan Submittal

Please follow the County Plan format in Attachment I when preparing your plan. Counties desiring total geographical exclusion need only complete part V of the County Plan.

Please send your FSET plan and/or request for geographical exclusion by August 8, 1988 to:

GAIN and Employment Services Policy Bureau  
744 P Street, M.S. 6-138  
Sacramento, CA 95814.

If you have any questions, please have your staff contact your GAIN and Employment Services Operations analyst at (916) 445-0287.

  
DENNIS J. BOYLE  
Deputy Director

Attachments

cc: CWDA