

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



March 1, 1990

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 90-25

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

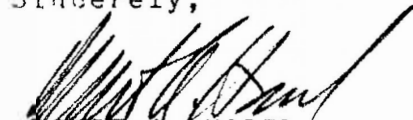
SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF AGENT ORANGE DISABILITY PAYMENTS IN THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

This letter provides the County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with instructions to implement a provision of Public Law (P.L.) 101-201, enacted December 6, 1989, for the Food Stamp Program. The provision pertains to the treatment of Agent Orange payments. The new law provides that no payments made from the Agent Orange Settlement Fund or any other fund established in connection with settling liability claims concerning Agent Orange shall be considered income or resources for determining eligibility or the amount of benefits under any Federal or Federally assisted program. The effective date of this provision is retroactive to January 1, 1989.

The Food and Nutrition Service has directed the State to implement the new law. We are, therefore, asking the CWDs to implement this as soon as administratively possible but no later than April 1, 1990 for new Food Stamp applications and at recertification or upon the household's request for continuing cases. Benefits must be restored to any household in which the CWD becomes aware or the household reports and documents that it was denied, terminated or under issued Food Stamp benefits due to the receipt of Agent Orange payments. Households which are entitled to a restoration shall receive benefits for any month(s) in which application of this provision would have affected the household's eligibility or benefits back to January 1, 1989. State regulations will be promulgated to implement this new law as soon as administratively feasible.

If you have any questions, please contact Kathie Birmingham of the AFDC and Food Stamp Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 324-2012.

Sincerely,


ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA