

# **FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU (FOB)**

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**TRANSMITTAL NUMBER: 98-01 (F)**

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**TO: All FOB and Performance Sample County Staff**

**SUBJECT/PURPOSE: Changes in Federal Alien Eligibility Requirements for the Federal Food Stamp Program**

**RELATED REFERENCE: ACL 98-66**

**SUPERSEDES: None**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: November 1, 1998**

## **BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of these Corrective Action transmittals is to provide (CA) approaches for error-prone areas such as alien eligibility. The intent of these transmittals is to assist State Program Information Analysts (PIAs) in becoming more proactive with their corrective action activities. The INSTRUCTIONS portions of these transmittals will be very familiar to county staff but new to PIAs, hence the explanatory material.

The Agriculture Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 changes the Federal alien eligibility requirements effective November 1, 1998. Potential eligibility is restored to those qualified non-citizens who:

- Legally resided in the US on August 22, 1996, are blind or disabled, and who do not receive SSI;
- Legally resided in the US on August 22, 1996 and were age 65 on that date (born on or before August 22, 19931);
- Legally resided in the US on August 22, 1996 and are now under age 18;
- Are refugees, asylees, deportees, Cubans, Haitians, or Amerasians in the US for 7 (not 5) years after admission or status granted.

In addition, nonqualified American Indians born in Canada or who are entitled to cross the Canadian or Mexican borders and former members of a Hmong or Highland Laotian tribe lawfully residing in the US who rendered assistance to US personnel in a military or rescue operation in Vietnam between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975 (along with their spouses, unmarried surviving spouses, and unmarried dependent children) are now potentially eligible

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Because of the recent changes in both the Federal Food Stamp and California Food Assistance Programs, PIAs shall conduct focused reviews of cases to determine if line staff are correctly integrating these changes into their cases. (These reviews are separate from the quality control (QC) process and are to be done on cases that are not in the QC sample. The PIA should consult with county Corrective Action staff to determine the appropriate number of cases to be reviewed.)

The focused review looks at those parts of a case that could be error prone because of a regulatory change or some other factor to see what impact it is having on the county's error rate. A large number of cases can be looked at because only portions of each case are examined.

When looking at the effect of the Federal alien eligibility changes, first check the household composition to determine if each person in the case was properly included/excluded in the household and in the proper program (Federal or CFAP). If there is an error in this area or if this is a combined (Federal and CFAP) case, check the budgeting items (income, resources, shelter, and utilities) to determine if the eligibility worker (EW) correctly computed the allotment. (You need not reverify these items since the focus is on whether the EW properly prorated and computed the allotment). If the results of the case reviews indicate that the majority of errors are occurring in household composition, for example, corrective action (such as training) can then be taken. If training is done, focused reviews should be conducted a short time afterwards to see if the problem still exists.

**COUNTY INQUIRIES: County Program Information Analyst**

**DOB INQUIRIES: Michael Bowman-Jones (909) 862-8116**

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**GARY SWANSON, Chief  
Data Operations Branch**

Attachment(s):