

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

- a) Specific Purpose of the Regulations and Factual Basis for Determination that Regulations Are Necessary

Section 63-300.41(QR)

Specific Purpose:

This section is amended to direct the county to determine at the time of the initial application interview which households will be subject to Quarterly Reporting/Prospective Budgeting (QR/PB) requirements. This section is also amended to provide the county the option of not requiring households subject to QR/PB requirements to participate in a face-to-face interview at recertification. If the county does not require a face-to-face interview at recertification for QR households, the county must conduct either a telephone interview or a home visit in accordance with the regulations at 63-300.45. Further, this section is also amended to clarify what information is needed for households subject to QR/PB requirements during the certification and recertification process.

Factual Basis:

These amendments are necessary to implement the Department's approved waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Waiver #2070014 that allows the county the option of conducting either a telephone interview or home visit in lieu of the required face-to-face interview at recertification for households subject to QR/PB rules.

Section 63-300.43

Specific Purpose:

This section is amended to instruct the county to waive face-to-face interviews at initial certification and at recertification for households in which all members are 65 years of age or older, or physically disabled. This section is also amended to instruct the county to conduct either a telephone interview or a home visit in accordance with the regulations at 63-300.45.

Factual Basis:

These amendments are necessary to implement the Department's approved waiver from the USDA, FNS Waiver #2070014 that allows the county the option of conducting either a telephone interview or home visit in lieu of the required face-to-face interview for households in which all members are either elderly or disabled.

Section 63-300.45

Specific Purpose:

This section is amended to implement the option of conducting a telephone interview or home visit for those households for whom the face-to-face interview is not required. This section is also amended to require the county to conduct a face-to-face interview when requested by the household or when the county determines one is necessary. Further, this section is also amended to retain the household's verification requirements and certification period although the face-to-face interview is waived or is not required.

Factual Basis:

These amendments are necessary to implement the Department's approved waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Waiver #2070014 that allows the county the option of conducting either a telephone interview or home visit in lieu of the required face-to-face interview at recertification for households subject to Quarterly Reporting/Prospective Budgeting rules.

Section 63-300.451 (Renumbered from Section 63-601.124)

Specific Purpose:

Section 63-601.124 is being renumbered to Section 63-300.451. This section is amended to require that eligible households certified by an out-of-office interview still must complete all necessary Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS) requirements in accordance with current state law. This section is being further amended to instruct the County Welfare Department (CWD) to attempt to complete all SFIS requirements not completed at certification when the household member(s) is/are in the office for any reason. CWD shall not require the household member to come into the office solely for the purpose of SFIS. However, all SFIS requirements must be completed by the household's next recertification for continued eligibility in the Food Stamp Program.

Factual Basis:

This adoption is necessary to reflect current regulations at Section 63-505.14 that require eligible household members who are not exempt or have a postponement to fulfill SFIS requirements when the household members are in the office for any reason.

Section 63-300.464(a)

Specific Purpose:

This section is amended to provide for a cross reference when the requirement for a face-to-face interview every 12 months is not required for recertification interviews.

Factual Basis:

This amendment is necessary to implement the Department's approved waiver from the USDA, FNS Waiver #2070014 that allows the county the option of conducting either a telephone interview or home visit in lieu of the required face-to-face interview at recertification for households subject to QR/PB rules.

Section 63-504.61(d)(1) through (d)(3)

Specific Purpose:

These sections are amended to clarify that households are required to participate in an interview rather than exclusively appearing for an interview.

Factual Basis:

This amendment is necessary to implement the Department's approved waiver from the USDA, FNS Waiver #2070014 that allows the county the option of conducting either a telephone interview or home visit in lieu of the required face-to-face interview at recertification for households subject to QR/PB.

Section 63-504.61(g)

Specific Purpose:

This section is amended to establish that the county shall provide uninterrupted benefits to any household determined eligible after a timely application is made when the household participates in an interview rather than exclusively appear for an interview.

Factual Basis:

This amendment is necessary to implement the Department's approved waiver from the USDA, FNS Waiver #2070014 that allows the county the option of conducting either a telephone interview or home visit in lieu of the required face-to-face interview at recertification for households subject to QR/PB rules.

Section 63-504.61(i)(1)(B)

Specific Purpose:

This section is amended to allow the county to interrupt the households benefits when the household fails to participate in an interview rather than exclusively appear for an interview.

Factual Basis:

This amendment is necessary to implement the Department's approved waiver from the USDA, FNS Waiver #2070014 that allows the county the option of conducting either a telephone interview or home visit in lieu of the required face-to-face interview at recertification for households subject to QR/PB rules.

Section 63-601.124

Specific Purpose/Factual Basis:

This section is being renumbered to Section 63-300.451.

b) Identification of Documents Upon Which Department Is Relying

USDA, FNS Waiver #2070014

c) Local Mandate Statement

These regulations do impose a mandate upon local agencies but not upon school districts. The mandate is not required to be reimbursed pursuant to part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code or Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because implementation of the regulations will result in savings.

d) Statement of Alternatives Considered

CDSS must determine that no reasonable alternative considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of CDSS would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulations are proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

e) Statement of Significant Adverse Economic Impact On Business

CDSS has made an initial determination that the proposed action will not have a significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.