

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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



May 1, 1980

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE 1-42-80

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL SUSPENSION OF FOOD STAMP BENEFITS

USDA has determined that, at the current rate of expenditures, the Food Stamp Program will exceed its budgeted appropriation before the end of the federal fiscal year. Legislation is pending in Congress to authorize supplemental funding for the program, but USDA Secretary Robert Bergland has declared that the necessary appropriation must be secured by May 15, 1980, in order to forestall a suspension of food stamp benefits.

At this time, there are several major hurdles to overcome within the legislative process. Attached for your information is a letter that was sent to the California Congressional Delegation encouraging them to do whatever is necessary to avert benefit suspension. We urge you to write similar letters to your Senators and Representatives.

Despite these efforts, it is questionable whether Congress can meet the May 15 deadline. Secretary Bergland has, therefore, indicated that he plans to suspend benefits on June 1 if the deadline is not met. Depending upon the ultimate outcome of the appropriation legislation, USDA intends to restore June benefits and issue full benefits in July, but may reduce, suspend, or cancel benefits in August and September.

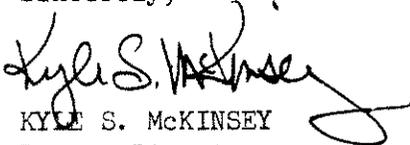
To implement these actions, USDA issued emergency regulations on April 2, 1980, which address procedures for the suspension, reduction, or cancellation of benefits. Corresponding state regulations are presently being prepared. The regulations provide for ongoing certification processes during the period of suspension. Counties will thus process applications and determine eligibility as usual, up to the point of ATP issuance (or coupon issuance, in non-ATP counties). Since the continuation of administrative functions has been federally mandated, it is our understanding that administrative funds will be provided as usual for the period of suspension.

Although the continuation of certification functions will help to reduce disruptions in county operations, it is anticipated that benefit suspension will cause many administrative, operational, and recipient problems. We recommend that counties particularly begin to examine their issuance systems - e.g., bonding and insurance capacities, status of coupon inventories, financial stability of issuance agents, computer modifications, etc., - as a precautionary measure. More specific details will be forwarded as they become known.

In addition, if suspension is implemented, changes may be required in reporting, fiscal claiming, and time study procedures. We are researching these issues and will advise counties of any new instructions as soon as possible.

Because of the uncertainty of benefit suspension, as well as the lack of specific information, counties must not notify recipients at this time. We are developing language for a notice and will forward it to you at a later date. At such time that USDA issues a formal directive, we will quickly notify all counties. In the meantime, we will apprise you of any major developments, in order to provide as much advance notice as possible.

Sincerely,



KYLE S. MCKINSEY
Deputy Director

Attachment

cc: CWDA
FNS/WRO

Siskiyou

Mrs. Kathryn Cavin, Program Manager I
Siskiyou Co. Welfare Dept.
Room 4 - Courthouse
Yreka, CA 96097
(916) 842-4471

Solano

Mrs. Doris Gibson, Eligibility Supervisor I
Solano County Public Welfare Department
355 Tuolumne Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 553-5528

Sonoma

Ms. Virginia Tabor, AFDC
Program Specialist
Sonoma Co. Social Service Department
(707) 527-2448

Mail ICT Documents To:
Sonoma Co. Social Service
Department
P.O. Box 1539
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
Attn: Central Index
Transfer Clerk

Stanislaus

Mrs. Carol Darling, Program Manager II
Department of Human Services
Income Maintenance Division
P.O. Box 42
Modesto, CA 95353
(209) 526-6630

Sutter

Mr. John Brownlee, ES I
Sutter Co. Welfare Dept.
P.O. Box 1535
Yuba City, CA 95991
(916) 674-2160

Tehama

Mrs. Ruth Colaw, ES
Tehama County Department of Social Welfare
P.O. Box W
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(916) 527-1912

Trinity

Chris Talkington, Eligibility Worker III
Trinity Co. Welfare Dept.
P.O. Box 218
Weaverville, CA 96093
(916) 623-2291

San Luis Obispo

Mrs. Helen Weaver
San Luis Obispo Department of Welfare
P.O. Box T
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
(805) 544-7500

San Mateo

Mrs. Barbara MacLean, ES I
County of San Mateo
(415) 573-2260

Mail ICT Documents To:
San Mateo Co. Dept. of
Public Health and Welfare
225 West 37th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403
Attn: Master Index

Santa Barbara

Ms. Michele Fitzpatrick, AFDC Intake
Santa Barbara Co. Welfare Dept.
117 East Carrillo Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-0081 Ext. 209

Santa Clara

Ms. Joy Ribardo
Santa Clara Co. Dept. of Social Services
700 Gale Drive
Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 866-0101 Ext. 216

Santa Cruz

Ms. Nancy Shipper, Program Manager
Santa Cruz County Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 1320
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
(408) 425-2088

Shasta

Mrs. Mary James
Shasta Co. Welfare Dept.
1830 Yuba Street
Redding, CA 96001
(916) 246-5796

Sierra

Ms. Jane Hallman, EW II
Sierra Co. Welfare Dept.
Courthouse
P.O. Box 38
Downieville, CA 95936
(916) 289-3204

Tulare

Mr. James T. Marchbanks
Tulare Co. Welfare Dept.
P.O. Box 671
Visalia, CA 93277
(209) 733-7111 Ext. 341

Tuolumne

Ms. Beth McLain, Eligibility Supervisor I
Tuolumne Co. Welfare Dept.
105 E. Hospital Road
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-1461

Ventura

Ms. Virginia Reid
County of Ventura
Public Social Services Agency
3161 Loma Vista Road
Ventura, CA 93003
(805) 654-3233

Yolo

Mr. Ed Gustin
Yolo Co. Welfare Dept.
Income Maintenance Division
P.O. Box 531
Woodland, CA 95695
(916) 666-8491

Yuba

Ms. Patricia Hess, Eligibility Supervisor I
Yuba Co. Welfare Dept.
935 14th Street
Marysville, CA 95901
(916) 674-6451