

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



September 20, 1990

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-73-90

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: SOVIET JEWISH REFUGEES - FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

REFERENCE: All County Letter No. 90-32, dated April 9, 1990

This is to provide further clarification to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) regarding the treatment of Soviet Jewish refugee applicants in the Food Stamp Program. Earlier this year, the Department of State entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Council of Jewish Federations and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (CJF/HIAS) on a project to privately fund admission and resettlement in the United States during Federal Fiscal Year 1990 of up to 8,000 Soviet Jewish refugees. Information regarding the MOU and responsibility of the CJF/HIAS to privately fund these refugees is contained within ACL 90-32.

Soviet Jewish refugees may have a statement affixed to the back of their Arrival-Departure Form (I-94) to the effect that private resources are available to them. If these refugees apply for the Food Stamp Program, their eligibility must be determined and the local Jewish agency whose phone number is provided on the I-94 should be contacted. The MOU between the Department of State and CJF/HIAS does not alter basic requirements of the Food Stamp Act. These refugees have been admitted under Sections 207 and 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Therefore, they are entitled to have their eligibility for Food Stamps considered should they submit an application.

CWDs may inform refugees who present an I-94 annotated with the above-described statement that private funds may be available to them. However, CWDs must not discourage them from applying for Food Stamps. Income which is received by a sponsoring CJF/HIAS must be counted for budgeting purposes in accordance with M.S. 63-502.146

The agreement between the Department of State and CJF/HIAS requires CJF/HIAS to reimburse the Federal Government for any assistance these refugees actually receive. Therefore, the establishment of claims against refugees sponsored through a CJF/HIAS agency would be inappropriate under any circumstances.

FISCAL INSTRUCTIONS:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued instructions that payments remitted for these refugees by CJF/HIAS should be handled as funds received from past participants in the Food Stamp Program who have elected to make repayments for legitimately received assistance even though they were under no obligation to do so. Please report receipt of any CJF/HIAS reimbursements to the following address:

Joseph Pinto, Acting Director
Program Development Division
USDA Food & Nutrition Service
3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

If you have any questions regarding Food Stamp Program eligibility for Soviet Jewish Refugees, please contact Carole Robinson of the Welfare Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 324-2015. If you have any questions regarding CJF/HIAS reimbursements, please contact Sally Theroux, Fiscal Policy and Procedures Bureau at (916) 322-9288

for Robert A. Horel
ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA