

## DEPARTMENT OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS

September 27, 1974



ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 74-192

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM - DIFFERENTIATING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND  
NONASSISTANCE HOUSEHOLDS

REFERENCE: 63-302.34

FNS has informed us that audits continue to show that many counties are still making errors in identifying households as either public assistance or non-assistance. Therefore a clarification of the pertinent Manual Section 63-302.34, is given by this All-County Letter.

In order to be classified as PA for food stamp purposes, all members of a household must be receiving either an AFDC cash grant as federally eligible persons or a General Relief grant which has been determined by FNS to meet PA criteria. Households containing a member who is not receiving a payment of the above type, and who is not a roomer, boarder, live-in attendant, foster child, or SSI recipient are mixed households and are, therefore, subject to the FSP income and resource limitations applicable to NA households. AFDC households whose grant has been reduced to zero temporarily, such as for the collection of an overpayment, continue to remain PA households even though no PA grant is being issued to them during those months. However, households on a "zero grant" basis because of excess income may continue to remain classified as PA for a period not to exceed one month. Continuation of a "zero grant" status for such a household beyond one month will require the preparation of a DFA 285 and a determination of NA eligibility.

Errors seem to be made most frequently in the households which contain a nonaided child, a "non-Federal" person and in UAM and stepfather households. Please inform AFDC eligibility staff of the urgency of evaluating food stamp eligibility of AFDC households when a change takes place which could bring about a discontinuance of the PA status and thereby the need to review the case in terms of nonassistance eligibility. A household changing from an assistance household to a nonassistance household does not automatically retain its eligibility for food stamps even for the changeover month or first month in which it has become a nonassistance household. A notice of adverse action is necessary, of course, before this termination of PA food stamps. But after termination of PA food stamps, the continuation of a household's participation in the program must be established prior to any further stamp issuance by using a nonassistance application and all NA regulations and procedures.

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Superseded by

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It may be possible in special cases for all members of certain households to be receiving an aid grant and for the classification of the household to be non-assistance.

All-County Letter 74-68 dated April 23, 1974, indicates that in AFDC a needy unmarried parent may now be eligible to be in the AFDC budget and grant, even though such a person would be coded "non-Federal" for AFDC participation purposes. The presence of such an aided but non-Federal person in the household makes the household nonassistance. A PA household, therefore, is one in which all members are receiving assistance as federal eligibles under a federally aided public assistance program or under a general assistance program found by FNS to meet PA criteria.

Aid to the Potentially Self-supporting Blind households and Cuban Refugee aid households are considered by FNS to be nonassistance households. Persons who are AFDC refused grant cases, 34's, are not public assistance recipients but nonassistance. These are not to be confused with persons receiving AFDC whose cash grant has been reduced temporarily to zero. Those adult aid recipients receiving SSP but not SSI are nevertheless considered by FNS to be cashed-out and ineligible to receive Food Stamp Program benefits. Persons who have pending aid applications are also not considered public assistance recipients until the month in which they actually do receive an aid grant. Persons receiving payments from the Aid for the Adoption of Children program are also not considered public assistance food stamp recipients but nonassistance. The so-called "20 percent Social Security" recipients are to be considered nonassistance persons.

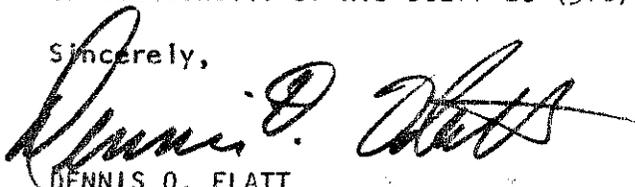
Whenever the AFDC worker determines that an unrelated adult male (URAM) is living in the home of an AFDC recipient, each such case must be examined individually to assess whether the URAM is a bona fide roomer and/or boarder, or a household member. If he is a household member, and not receiving public assistance as a federally eligible person or general assistance, the food stamp case becomes non-assistance (mixed). In no case, however, may the URAM be considered a roomer or boarder for Food Stamp Program purposes unless the AFDC worker has made the same determination (under EAS Section 43-114) for AFDC program purposes.

When there is an "unmarried parent" in an AFDC case, the household shall be non-assistance, mixed, if the "unmarried parent" is not receiving public assistance as a federally eligible person or general assistance.

For purposes of classifying households, claiming reimbursement and reporting participation on the FNS 256 report, households containing an SSI recipient are to be treated as if that person were not a household member.

Please direct any questions to Richard Havnen, Chief, Food Stamp Management Bureau, or Joe Bonelli of his staff at (916) 445-6907.

Sincerely,



DENNIS O. FLATT  
Deputy Director

cc: USDA, FNS  
CWDA