

DEPARTMENT OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS

744 P Street, Sacramento 95814

(916) 445-0814



August 27, 1975

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 75-190

TO: All County Welfare Directors

SUBJECT: Food Stamp Program - Outreach Brochures

REFERENCE:

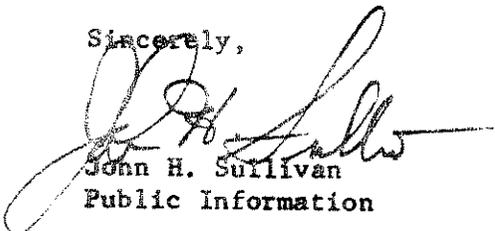
Copies of the revised "Food Stamps Can Help" information leaflet (sample attached) are being sent directly to all county welfare departments. Additional copies should be ordered from Publications, Department of Benefit Payments, 744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814; 916-445-0814. There is no charge for this publication.

This revision contains additional information on the Food Stamp program, but does not make the March 1975 leaflet obsolete. Copies of the March version may be used until the supply is exhausted.

"Food Stamps Can Help" is designed specifically for potential food stamp applicants and should be made available to individuals and local organizations.

The leaflet is being translated into Spanish and a sample copy of the Spanish version will be sent when these are available.

Sincerely,



John H. Sullivan
Public Information

cc: CWDA

OBSOLETESuperseded by ACL # 77-15Issued 3-17-77

The Food Stamp Program

The federal government sponsors the Food Stamp Program to meet the nutritional needs of low-income people who cannot afford to buy enough food. Race, color, religious creed, national origin, and political beliefs have nothing to do with food stamp eligibility. Anyone who wants to apply for food stamps has a legal right to do so.

Food stamps are coupons in different dollar amounts which can be used like money to buy food at stores which display a U.S. Department of Agriculture sign that says, "We accept food coupons." The coupons are not good for nonfood items such as tobacco, liquor, dog food, vitamins, or soap, and they cannot be exchanged for money.

Facts About Food Stamp Eligibility

You may be considered as a food stamp household alone, with your family, or with a group of persons who buy, store, and cook their food together and share expenses.

You must be a resident of the county where you apply for food stamps.

You must have access to cooking facilities in your home, unless you live in a state-approved drug addiction or alcoholic treatment center, or unless you are 60 or older and are eligible for meals-on-wheels or communal dining.

If you and each other person in your household receive AFDC payments, you are eligible for food stamps without regard to income and resource eligibility standards.

If you are aged, blind, or disabled and you receive Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) benefits, you are not eligible. The bonus value of food stamps is included in your monthly gold check. People who live with you, however, may apply for food stamps.

If you are between 18 and 65 and are not employed, you will probably have to register for work at a State Employment Development Department office to be eligible for food stamps. The county welfare department will tell you if this rule applies to you.

If no one in your household receives welfare payments

- You and the persons you live with may not have more than a total of \$1,500 worth of assets such

as cash savings, bank and checking accounts, U.S. savings bonds, stocks, and bonds. This does not count your home and lot, car, life insurance, household goods, or personal belongings. If you live with at least one other person who is applying for food stamps with you and one of you is 60 or older, your total assets may be worth \$3,000.

- Your total income minus certain deductions such as taxes, medical costs, and certain child care and housing costs must be within income limits set by the federal government. These limits are based on the number of persons in your household.

How To Apply for Food Stamps

Call or go to your local county welfare office and ask for a food stamp application. When you go to the welfare office

- Take papers such as recent wage stubs, earnings and deductions statements, educational grant award letters, Social Security or Veterans award letters, and self-employment bookkeeping records which show your income and the income of each person who lives with you.

- Take a list which shows how much you and the persons you live with pay for rent, utilities, phone, and doctor's care, including the cost of transportation to and from the doctor.

- If you cannot apply for food stamps yourself because of work, health, or a specific transportation problem, you may ask a responsible adult to apply for you. Be sure that person takes all of the information described above to the welfare office.

- Ask for help if you have any questions about the application form.

If you need food immediately, ask to talk to a county eligibility worker and tell that person why you need food right away. You may qualify to receive food stamps or another form of help that day.

Federal law requires the county welfare department to tell you if you are eligible within 30 days after you turn in an application which clearly shows your name and address. If you are eligible the county must issue an authorization to purchase food stamps to you by the end of the same 30-day period.

If you are found to be ineligible, you may reapply in a few months. Changes in the eligibility

tables are made every January and July to reflect changes in the cost of living.

How the Food Stamp Program Works

If you are found to be eligible

- You and the persons you live with are called a food stamp "household."

- Your household will buy or be given a certain amount of food stamps. The amount of food stamps and the price of food stamps for your household will depend on how many persons you live with, how much you earn together, and how many allowable income deductions you have.

- You may receive food stamps free or for a very low price if your household has an extremely low income after deductions. Regardless of the amount of your purchase price, you will pay less than the food stamps are worth. This "bonus" value will save you money and enable you to buy more food.

- You will buy your food stamps directly from the county or through agents such as banks, credit unions, or post offices.

- You can buy food stamps once or twice a month and you may choose to buy all, 3/4, 1/2, or 1/4 of the amount of food stamps your household is eligible to receive.

- You may be able to have the purchase price of your food stamps deducted from your welfare payment if anyone in your household receives a welfare payment. If you do this, you must buy the full amount of stamps your household is eligible to receive.

What To Do If You Disagree With the County's Actions

If you are not eligible, a county worker will explain why. Be sure you understand. The county will also send you a written explanation of the reason you do not qualify for food stamps.

If you are dissatisfied, and you cannot reach agreement with your worker and the county, you may request a fair hearing by the state. This must be done

within 90 days after the county action that you disagree with. To do this, write to:

Public Inquiry and Response
Department of Benefit Payments
744 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Explain in your letter why you are dissatisfied.

You will then be given a chance to explain your complaint to a fair hearing referee. A county representative will also have the chance to tell the referee why the county does not agree with you. Then it is up to the referee to weigh both sides of the story against the regulations. If the referee's decision indicates that you have not received benefits you are entitled to because of a county's actions, arrangements will be made to give you the benefits you missed and insure that you get them in the future for as long as you are eligible to receive them.

Your Responsibilities

Tell the county welfare department about any changes in your household size and income. You may telephone, write a letter, or go to the welfare office. Be sure to let them know about the change within ten days after you learn about it. Use this check list as a reminder.

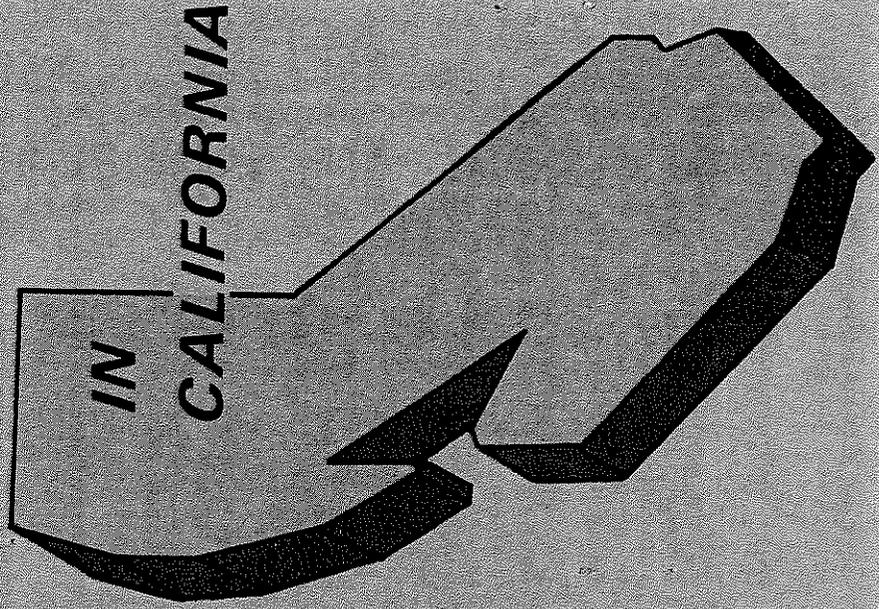
- Someone leaves or joins your household
- You move
- Someone in your household changes jobs, quits, or finds work
- Someone in your household receives a one-time payment such as an insurance settlement
- Your total monthly deductible expenses change by more than \$25 (These expenses include child care which necessary because you work or attend school, medical expenses, rent or housing payments including utilities, and court ordered child support and alimony payments.)
- Your gross income changes by more than \$25

If any change in your situation occurs and you are not sure if you should report it, do — within ten days.

Further information about the Food Stamp Program can be obtained free of charge from your county welfare office listed in the telephone directory under county name.



FOOD STAMPS CAN HELP



Department of Benefit Payments

AUGUST 1975