STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

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

March 29, 1991

ALL COUNTY LETTER 91-29

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Budgeting of Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Entrant Cash Assistance (ECA) Payments in the Food Stamp Program

REFERENCES: ACL 89-100, dated November 22, 1989
ACL 90-22, dated February 27, 1990

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has granted the State's waiver request to allow the prospective budgeting of all RCA/ECA payments. Any RCA/ECA payment that cannot be anticipated with reasonable certainty and prospectively budgeted will be disregarded.

Current State policy requires all RCA/ECA grant payments to be budgeted prospectively. M.S. 63-503.232(c)(4) further specifies that after the beginning months, if the CWD cannot anticipate an RCA/ECA additional/corrective payment or does not have time to budget the known payment prospectively, then it must be budgeted retrospectively.

Any RCA/ECA additional/corrective payment received in the beginning months are excluded currently.

During the negotiations of the recent court case, Jones v. Yeutter, this current policy was found to be invalid by FNS. FNS informed California that the State had no authority to permit the CWDs to budget RCA/ECA payments prospectively. FNS advised us that these payments must be budgeted retrospectively. (See ACL 90-22.)

A waiver to continue to budget RCA/ECA prospectively and to exclude RCA/ECA additional/corrective payments as income when unable to budget these payments prospectively was submitted to FNS on August 21, 1990. FNS approved our waiver request on February 20, 1991. With this waiver, you will now budget RCA/ECA additional/corrective payments the same way you currently budget the General Assistance (GA) additional/corrective payments. The waiver is granted only until September 18, 1991. At that time, FNS will consider our request for an extension. FNS selected this date in order to combine this waiver with the waiver granted for GA payments which expires on that date. (See ACL 89-100.)

CWDs are to continue to budget RCA/ECA prospectively. Effective with the April 1991 budget month and the June 1991 issuance month, Counties are not to budget retrospectively any RCA/ECA additional/corrective payments that were not budgeted prospectively.

If you have any questions regarding the implementation of this waiver, please contact Ms. Michele Carotti in the AFDC and Food Stamp Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 324-2010 or ATSS 454-2010, or Ms. Julie Andrews in the Food Stamp Policy Bureau at (916) 324-8701 or ATSS 454-8701 for questions regarding the Jones court case.

ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA