

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Existing law provides for the Food Stamp Program (FSP), under which each county distributes food stamp benefits to eligible households. The FSP is designed to promote the general welfare, and safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's population raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households. Therefore, it is necessary that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) be in compliance with state and federal regulations to ensure the continued service to these households.

Currently, the state regulations at Manual of Policies and Procedures Section 63-301.546 specify that when an application for food stamp benefits is received after the 15th of the month and a household is determined to be entitled to Expedited Services and verification is postponed, the county welfare department (CWD) shall issue the second months benefits within five working days from receipt of the verification or the first day of the second calendar month, whichever is later.

State regulations are in conflict with federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.2(i)(4)(iii)(C) which specifies that for households entitled to expedited services, when they apply after the 15th of the month and verification is postponed, the household must be given the first and second allotment on an expedited basis. Therefore, CDSS is not in compliance with current federal regulations and the regulation changes are necessary to adhere to state law.

Additionally, it will be necessary to add language in the form of a handbook example to instruct the CWD how to proceed when the verification is received within the allotted timeframe.

These regulations were considered as Item #1 at the public hearing held on June 13, 2007 in Sacramento, California. No oral testimony was received. Written testimony was received from Kevin M. Aslanian, Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.

A 15-Day Renotice was not necessary as there were no revisions made to the regulations after the public hearing.