



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
*Executive Office of Health and Human Services*  
**Department of Transitional Assistance**  
600 Washington Street • Boston, MA 02111

JANE SWIFT  
Governor

ROBERT P. GITTENS  
Secretary

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Commissioner

**Field Operations Memo 2002-9E**  
**August 2, 2002**

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff

**From:** *C.P. (A.W.)* Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

**Re:** New FS/SSFSP Calculation and Retroactive Benefits: *Nguyen v. Wagner* Settlement

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**Background**

On July 1, 2002, in accordance with the settlement agreement of *Nguyen v. Wagner*, the Department changed the way benefits are calculated for AUs that receive both federal and state supplemental food stamp benefits (FS/SSFSP AUs). The Department agreed, upon request, to review any SSFSP recipient's noncitizen status to determine eligibility for federal food stamp benefits. These instructions were issued in Field Operations Memo 2002-9D. The settlement also mandated that combination FS/SSFSP AUs would receive retroactive federal food stamp benefits if the federal benefits increased as a result of the new calculation.

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**Issuance of Retroactive Benefits**

Retroactive benefits were issued August 2, 2002 to combination FS/SSFSP AUs eligible for these additional benefits. Eligible combination FS/SSFSP AUs whose SSN ends in "0" through "6" were issued a June benefit while SSNs ending in "7" through "9" were issued a May and June benefit.

AU Managers do not need to take any action on these payments as they were authorized and issued centrally.

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**Questions**

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478.

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