

## From the Hotline

- Q. I have a case in which the SDX Inquiry - Income Screen shows two different SSI amounts. Why are the amounts different?
- A. In most instances the amounts on either side of the SDX Inquiry - Income Screen will match. However, the amounts will differ on the SDX Inquiry - Income Screen if the Social Security Administration is recouping an overpayment, issuing a retroactive payment etc.
- Q. I have a case in which the SDX Inquiry - Income Screen shows two different SSI amounts. Which is the correct amount to use if updating PACES for a FS case?

For food stamp purposes, always update PACES with the lower amount if the amounts on the SDX Inquiry - Income Screen are different. Unlike the Department, SSA does not necessarily make a determination with regard to fault or fraud when establishing a recoupment for an overpayment. Food stamp regulations at 106 CMR 363.220(C)(4) state that recouped monies are *counted* only if the household intentionally failed to comply with the requirement of a federal or state needs-based program. Since SSA does not necessarily make this sort of determination, it is safer to use the lower amount.

*Note:* The Monthly SDX/BENDEX Update always updates PACES with the lower SSI amount.

- Q. How long is a drug felon disqualified from food stamp benefits?
- A. According to food stamp policy at 106 CMR 367.800 an individual is ineligible for food stamp benefits if he or she is convicted under federal or state law of a felony which includes as an element the possession, use or distribution of a controlled substance and the conviction is for conduct that occurred after 8/22/96. *These individuals are permanently ineligible for food stamp benefits.*

## Food Stamp Program - Income and Asset Exclusions

FS, SSFSP  
State Letter 1169

- Certain types of income and assets are excluded for food stamp purposes by specific provisions in federal law. State Letter 1169 transmits an updated list of income and asset exclusions.
- A technical correction adding Cuban/Haitian entrants to the list of qualified non-citizens and renumbering changes are also transmitted.

## Disability Determination Guide - Issuance No. 003

TAFDC, EAEDC

The Disability Determination Guide is being updated to include information on the revised Disability Determination Tracking Form. The Tracking Form is being revised to include a section to record the number of months of time-limited benefits remaining for all exempt and nonexempt single grantees and both parents in a two-parent household.