

Argeo Paul Cellucci
Governor

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


William D. O'Leary
Secretary

Claire McIntire
Commissioner

Fax 97-185

Field Operations Memo 97-69
November 24, 1997

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff

From:  Joyce Sampson
Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

Re: November Issuance of SSFSP Benefits to Eligible Noncitizens Not Yet Converted

Introduction

This Field Operations Memo explains how the State Supplemental Food Stamp Program (SSFSP) benefits will be issued for the month of November, 1997 to SSFSP-eligible noncitizens who have not yet been converted for November 1997 cyclical SSFSP benefits and describes the notice that will be mailed.

**SSFSP
Benefit
Payment for
November**

At the close of business on Tuesday, November 25, 1997, PACES will issue \$24 for each SSFSP-eligible noncitizen who has not yet been converted. Unconverted cases are those that have a number in the Filing Unit Block, but which have not yet been converted to a category 9 case with a status 6 or 7. The SSFSP benefits will be issued to the head of household as an EBT authorization. The SSFSP benefits will be available to households as of Wednesday, November 26, 1997.

Notices

On Wednesday, November 26, 1997, a notice will be mailed to the SSFSP-eligible noncitizens who have not yet been converted and who received SSFSP benefits of \$24 per eligible person. See Attachment A for a copy of the notice.

Questions

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance

On July 11, 1997, Governor Weld signed into law a State Supplemental Food Stamp Program (SSFSP) for certain noncitizens who were made ineligible for food stamp benefits solely as a result of the Food Stamp Program noncitizen regulations. Your SSFSP benefit for November is \$24 for each noncitizen in your household determined eligible by November 25, 1997.

Your November SSFSP benefits are being issued as an EBT benefit. An EBT SSFSP benefit is being transferred in your name as a separate payment in addition to your regular EBT benefits, if any. **If you do not already have an EBT card, you must go to your local office as soon as possible to get one.** If you already have an EBT card to access food stamp benefits, you do not need another card to access SSFSP benefits. **EBT SSFSP benefits will be available at POS terminals in food stores that display the Quest logo as of November 26, 1997.** Your SSFSP benefit is limited to the purchase of food.

If you do not agree with the amount of your November SSFSP benefit, you may request a hearing by filing an appeal within 90 days of receipt of the SSFSP benefit. An appeal form is available at your local office.

If you are eligible for SSFSP benefits in December, you will receive a separate notice. December SSFSP benefits will also be issued as EBT SSFSP benefits in addition to your regular cash or food stamp benefits, if any.

If you have any questions, contact your worker.