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Governor

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Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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William D. O'Leary
Secretary

Claire McIntire
Commissioner

Fax 98 -5
Field Operations Memo 98-7
January 15, 1998

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
From:  Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: Increased State Supplemental Food Stamp Program Benefit Amounts

Background

The legislature has approved additional funding for the State Supplemental Food Stamp Program (SSFSP). This increase in funding will allow the Department to issue SSFSP benefit amounts at the federal Food Stamp Program level. Recipients with SSFSP benefit amounts that calculate to \$10 or less will now receive the appropriate allotment.

Central Office Process

The Department will increase SSFSP benefits on the evening of January 15, 1998. This increase will be effective for the regular February food stamp cyclical benefits. This increase will generate a PACES notice informing the recipient of their new SSFSP amount and that the increase was due to a change in income. All ongoing SSFSP cases will receive an additional notice explaining that the legislative change is the actual reason for the increase in SSFSP benefits. The additional notice will be mailed during the week of January 20, 1998.

Note: The RSDI/SSI COLA is also scheduled for the evening of January 15, 1998. As part of the COLA, the SSFSP benefit standards will be increased.

The regulations regarding this increase at 106 CMR 364.600 will be revised effective February 1, 1998.

**Notice to
Closed/Denied
Cases**

A notice will be sent to households closed or denied since the implementation of the SSFSP. These households will be advised of the change in state law and instructed to reapply if they think they meet SSFSP eligibility requirements. Transitional Assistance offices will be told when this notice is sent.

Questions

If you have any questions, have your Hotline Designee contact the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478.
