



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

Field Operations Memo 98-12
February 17, 1998

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff

From: Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

Re: Expanded Noncitizen Eligibility Status Requirements for TAFDC and Food Stamp Benefits

Background

State Letter 1140 effective August 5, 1997 expanded the types of noncitizens eligible for TAFDC and the Food Stamp Program (FS) (in accordance with 106 CMR 203.675 and 106 CMR 362.220) to include:

- ▶ Cuban/Haitian entrants;
- ▶ certain Amerasian immigrants from Vietnam;
- ▶ veterans or active duty individuals who meet the minimum service requirements for active duty;
- ▶ surviving spouses, who have not remarried, of veterans or persons who died during active duty;
- ▶ Hmong and other Highland Lao veterans who fought on behalf of the U.S. during the Vietnam conflict; and
- ▶ certain Filipino veterans.

State Letter 1140 also provides that EAEDC applicants and recipients who are Cuban/Haitian entrants and certain Amerasian immigrants from Vietnam have their own noncitizen status and are no longer considered under the general PRUCOL designation.

The new noncitizen eligibility status requirements must be used for **new and reopened cases** effective the date of application or reapplication.

The new noncitizen eligibility status requirements for **ongoing cases** must be applied at the next eligibility review, recertification or during the next recipient contact.

**Background
(Continued)**

This memo contains instructions for updating ongoing cases with noncitizens who meet the new status requirements for TAFDC, EAEDC and FS.

**Ongoing TAFDC
Households**

If an ongoing TAFDC household contains a noncitizen(s) who is receiving Supplemental TAFDC benefits and now meets one of the new noncitizen status requirements for TAFDC in accordance with 106 CMR 203.675(A):

- No PACES action is required. The noncitizen(s) is already receiving full TAFDC benefits.
- Change the noncitizen(s) designation on PRISM II. **Cuban/Haitian entrants and certain Amerasians have a new specific noncitizen designation on PRISM II. Hmong and other Highland Lao veterans and certain Filipino veterans will be designated on PRISM II as noncitizen veterans. Refer to *PRISM II User's Guide*, Appendix B, for noncitizen designations.**

Note: Supplemental TAFDC benefits and TAFDC benefits are paid from two separate accounts. PRISM II is used to determine the correct account from which to pay benefits. Therefore, it is imperative that the noncitizen(s) designation be updated on PRISM II to ensure benefits are being paid from the correct account.

- Check to see if the noncitizen(s) is eligible for FS in accordance with 362.220(A):
 - If yes, follow the food stamp instructions listed on the following pages.

**Ongoing
EAEDC
Households**

If an ongoing EAEDC household contains a noncitizen(s) who is receiving EAEDC benefits and the noncitizen(s) is a Cuban/Haitian entrant or an Amerasian immigrant from Vietnam in accordance with 106 CMR 320.620(A):

- No PACES action is required. Cuban/Haitian entrants and Amerasian immigrants from Vietnam are already receiving full EAEDC benefits.
-

Ongoing
EAEDC
Households
(Continued)

-
- Change the noncitizen(s) designation on PRISM II. **Cuban/Haitian entrants and Amerasians have a new specific noncitizen designation on PRISM II. Refer to *PRISM II User's Guide*, Appendix B, for noncitizen designations.**
 - Check to see if the noncitizen(s) is eligible for FS in accordance with 106 CMR 362.220(A):
 - If yes, follow the food stamp instructions listed below.

Ongoing Food
Stamp
Households

If an ongoing food stamp household contains both FS and SSFSP members and SOME of the SSFSP members meet the new noncitizen status requirements for FS benefits in accordance with 106 CMR 362.220(A); or

If an ongoing food stamp household contains both FS and SSFSP members and ALL of the SSFSP members meet the new noncitizen status requirements for FS benefits in accordance with 106 CMR 362.220(A); or

If an ongoing food stamp household contains all SSFSP members and SOME of the SSFSP members meet the new noncitizen status requirements for FS benefits in accordance with 106 CMR 362.220(A):

On Day One:

- Close the SSFSP-eligible noncitizen(s) using AR 33 in Block 92 and enter code 5 in Block 42 to suppress the AR 33 notice. (SSFSP-eligible noncitizens must be closed in order to change the status 6 or 7 to a status 2.)

On Day Two:

- Reopen the FS-eligible noncitizen(s) using F2 in Block 90.
 - Enter the next cyclical start date (according to the date the noncitizen(s) closed) in Block 91.
 - Enter the appropriate eligibility AR in Block 92.
-

**Ongoing Food
Stamp
Households
(Continued)**

- Issue retroactive FS benefits to the household if the noncitizen(s) was eligible for FS benefits for any period back to August 5, 1997.
 - ▶ Perform an on-line calculation to determine the total FS amount owed to the household for the retroactive months.
 - ▶ Enter code 07 in Block 60.
 - ▶ Enter the FS forward adjustment amount in block 61.

Note: The full amount of retroactive FS benefits must be issued even if the noncitizen(s) received SSFSP benefits.

- Enter income and assets on a PACES Worksheet. See Field Operations Memo 98-8 for instructions on automated proration of income and shelter costs, if the case contains both SSFSP and FS members.

Note: If a PA/FS case was converted to Category 9 due solely to an SSFSP-eligible noncitizen(s) and the case now contains household member(s) who are **ALL** eligible for FS benefits, the category 9 case should be closed using AR 33 and the PA/FS case reopened.

- Change the PRISM II noncitizen(s) designation. **Cuban/Haitian entrants and Amerasians have a new specific noncitizen designation on PRISM II. Hmong and other Highland Lao veterans and certain Filipino veterans will be designated on PRISM II as noncitizen veterans. Refer to *PRISM II User's Guide*, Appendix B, for noncitizen designations.**

If an ongoing food stamp household contains all SSFSP members and ALL SSFSP members meet the new noncitizen status requirements for FS benefits in accordance with 106 CMR 362.220(A):

On Day One:

- Close the category 9 SSFSP case using AR 33.

**Ongoing Food
Stamp
Households
(Continued)**

On Day Two:

- Reopen the category 2 or category 9 FS case.
 - ▶ If the case is eligible for category 9 FS benefits, reopen the case using a status 2 in Block 31. Enter the food stamp benefit start date in Block 32 (day after the SSFSP case closing). Enter the appropriate case AR in Block 33; **or**
 - ▶ If a PA/FS case was on Category 9 due solely to an SSFSP-eligible noncitizen(s) and **ALL** household member(s) are eligible for FS benefits, open or reopen the PA/FS case.
- Establish FS benefits using status 1 or 2 in Block 51. Enter the food stamp start date in Block 52 (day after the SSFSP case closing). Enter the appropriate eligibility AR in Block 53. Enter shelter and utility expenses. Enter the certification period based on the type of case being processed.
- Open/Reopen FS-eligible noncitizen(s) using F1 or F2 in Block 90.
- Enter the food stamp start date in Block 91 (same date as Block 52.)
- Enter the appropriate eligibility AR in Block 92.
- Issue retroactive FS benefits to the household if the noncitizen(s) was eligible for FS benefits for any period back to August 5, 1997.
 - ▶ Perform an on-line calculation to determine the total FS amount owed to the household for the retroactive months.
 - ▶ Enter code 07 in Block 60.
 - ▶ Enter the FS forward adjustment amount in block 61.

Note: The full amount of retroactive FS benefits must be issued even if the noncitizen(s) received SSFSP benefits.

**Ongoing Food
Stamp
Households
(Continued)**

- Enter income and assets on a PACES Worksheet.
- Change the PRISM II noncitizen(s) designation. **Cuban/Haitian entrants and Amerasian have a new specific noncitizen designation on PRISM II. Hmong and other Highland Lao veterans and certain Filipino veterans will be designated on PRISM II as noncitizen veterans. Refer to *PRISM II User's Guide*, Appendix B, for noncitizen designations.**

Questions

Policy questions should be referred to the Policy Hotline at (617) 348-8478. Systems questions should be referred to the Systems Customer Support Services at (617) 348-5290.
