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Claire McIntire
Commissioner

Fax 98-108
Field Operations Memo 98-27
July 24, 1998

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
From: Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: Change to the Asset Limit for Noncategorically Eligible Food Stamp Cases (Category 9)

Background

Because the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) withdrew its waiver that had been approved during Welfare Reform (State Letter 1076, November 1, 1995), the asset limit for assistance units without at least one member aged 60 or older has been reduced from \$2500 to \$2000. TAFDC, SSI and/or EAEDC assistance units that are categorically eligible are **not** impacted by this change. State Letter 1156 issues this change of policy effective July 24, 1998. This change requires a recertification review for any Food Stamp case with assets *in excess of* \$2000. The system has been modified to use this new asset limit as of close of business July 24, 1998 with the appropriate categorical coding of "N" in Block 59 of the PACES Input Document (PID). It is important for all Transitional Assistance Workers to correctly code Block 59 for accurate noticing and calculation of benefits.

Recertification Activities

A report entitled "Special Category 9 Cases With Assets Over \$2000.00" is being sent to Transitional Assistance Offices (Attachment A). This report lists the social security number, food stamp status, categorical eligibility, name, and address of *all* Category 9 cases with assets over \$2000. All Category 9 cases are listed on this report to determine correct categorical eligibility and current asset levels. These cases must be recertified by August 28.

**Recertification
Activities
(continued)**

This report will be run on July 24, 1998. There are less than 115 cases statewide that are affected by this change. The following Transitional Assistance Offices will not receive this report:

Boston Family Housing;
Haverhill;
Hyannis;
Nantucket;
Newmarket Square Homeless;
Oak Bluffs;
Orleans;
Quincy - Centralized TAFDC;
Southbridge; and
SSI Regional Offices.

During the recertification review the worker must:

- determine the countable asset amount of the assistance unit;
- enter the *current* asset amount with a code "1" on the PACES Worksheet FIW1 Section 10 (*PACES User's Guide Volume 1, Chapter IV: PACES Worksheet, Page IV-34*);
- determine if the case is categorically or noncategorically eligible (106 CMR 363.110 and 365.180); and
- code the PID Block 59 with a "Y" for categorically eligible cases or an "N" for noncategorically eligible cases (*PACES User's Guide Volume 1, Chapter III: PACES Input Document, Page III-49*).

These actions will ensure that Category 9 Food Stamp cases continue to receive the correct benefit amount or receive an accurate termination notice.

Questions

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at (617) 348-8478. Systems questions should be directed to Systems Customer Service Center at (617) 348-5290.

Attachment A

TAO	CAN	CAT	SSN	FS ST	CAT ELIG	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST
TAO TOTAL									MA MA MA