

Hotline Focus

q How is the asset value of "leased vehicles" determined for food stamps? A significant down payment is made to reduce the monthly lease rates. Would the down payment, equity or fair market value of the leased vehicle be considered an asset? Or does the leased vehicle have no countable asset value for food stamps?

a There is no countable asset value for leased vehicles in the Food Stamp Program. Fair market or equity value would not be counted since the vehicle is not owned by the recipient. The down payment is noncountable since it is spent and no longer available to the recipient.

q Where do I enter child support received from an absent parent on the PACES worksheet for food stamps?

a The answer depends upon the category of the case. For a Category 4 or 9 food stamp case enter the amount in the FIW2 section as income type OU (other unearned); for a category 0 or 2 case, the \$50 child support payment as type F income in the special income Block in FIW1.

q Last month, I closed an AFDC case for action reason 61 (earned income). This month, this person's job ended and she reapplied. Should her benefits be calculated prospectively or retrospectively?

a Calculate her benefits prospectively. AFDC benefits are calculated retrospectively only if a case has been closed for Monthly Reporting Action Reasons 59, 67, or 71 and there is a reapplication within 30 days, diverted for an incomplete monthly report or closed for an unreturned monthly report. See section 302.960 of the *AFDC Policy Manual*.



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q Recently I submitted a transaction type "P" worksheet to zero out earned income on a monthly reporting case in which the recipient stopped working, but the recipient's grant remains unchanged. Why?

a A "P" worksheet only tests eligibility. It is intended to close a case if a recipient's income rises sufficiently for the case to fail the tests of eligibility. A "P" worksheet cannot be used to zero out income. In this case, when the recipient submits her next monthly report, her grant will go up for the payment month. You should not take any action to increase her grant before receiving the next monthly report.

q How do I reinstate diverted benefits?

a Complete a "D" transaction using the second cycle check date as the change date. Be sure to use the exact date listed in Appendix E of the *Systems User's Guide*, Volume 1, PACES. If an incorrect date is used, the first cycle check will not issue.

q What is the proper way to "Dever" food stamps on a CAT 4 case that is closing due to receipt of SSI?

a When "Devering" the food stamps, you should use a T-7 and Action Reason 25 on the TD. On the PACES Worksheet, enter the SSI amount in Block 1. Use code "1" to indicate that this is SSI. PACES will use this income in the Dever calculation.

