

indicator was coded “Yes” for the undetermined noncitizen. Consequently, her income was not counted in the food stamp calculation. For a noncitizen whose INS designation is Undetermined, the Legal FS Disqualified indicator must be coded “No.”

What Can an AU Manager Do?

AU Managers must carefully consider the INS designation of the person for whom the question is being asked when asking if a person is a legal noncitizen who is ineligible to participate in the federal Food Stamp Program (FSP) before coding the Legal FS Disqualified indicator. Remember, the Legal FS Disqualified indicator drives the food stamp calculation—specifically, the income and expenses to be used. If the Legal FS Disqualified indicator is incorrectly coded, the AU’s food stamp benefit amount will be wrong, and will be found in error by Quality Control.

Above right is a chart listing certain INS designations and their corresponding Legal FS Disqualified coding. This chart is not exhaustive. Some INS designations are more complex and must satisfy other requirements for FSP eligibility.

These INS designations are not listed in the chart and must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the AU Manager.

| Coding the Legal FS Disqualified Indicator for Corresponding INS Designations | |
|---|---|
| INS Designation on BEACON | Legal FS Disqualified Indicator |
| Amerasian, Cuban/Haitian, Asylee, Refugee, Deportation Withheld Noncitizen | No Rationale: Legal noncitizens who are eligible for the FSP. |
| Nonimmigrant (diplomats, students, visitors) | No Rationale: Legal noncitizens who have never been eligible for the FSP. |
| Undetermined, Deportation Order Shown | No Rationale: A noncitizen whose immigration status is proven to be illegal or undeclared to DTA. |
| PRUCOL | Yes Rationale: Legal noncitizens who were disqualified for the FSP by the Welfare Reform Act of 1996. |

From the Forms File

Revised Forms

18-083-0405-05
LL/VER (Rev. 4/2005)
Landlord Verification

The *Landlord Verification* form has been revised to address recent Quality Control errors related to the heating/cooling Standard Utility Allowance (SUA).

18-070-0405-05
VLA (Rev. 4/2005)
Shared Housing Verification

The *Shared Housing Verification* form has been revised to address recent Quality Control errors related to the heating/cooling Standard Utility Allowance (SUA). The Spanish version will soon be available.

09-375-0305-05
09-376-0305-05(S)
FS-USR-2 (Rev. 3/2005)
Universal Semiannual Reporting (USR) Income Guidelines Form

The Categorical Eligibility USR AU Gross Monthly Income Standard has been revised to reflect the increase in the 200% of Federal Poverty Guideline standard.

Revised Brochures

09-070-0305-05

09-079-0305-05(S)

FSP-INFO (Rev. 3/2005)

How to Get Food Stamp Benefits

The Income Standard for households with children under 19 and for a pregnant woman living alone has been revised to reflect the increase in the 200% of Federal Poverty Guideline standard.

02-615-0305-05

DVB (Rev. 3/2005)

You and Your Children Deserve to Be Safe

This brochure has been reformatted, and now includes the Domestic Violence Specialists' contact information. Other language versions will soon be available.

Forms/Brochures Available in Other Languages

The following forms and brochures are now available in Spanish.

09-361-0305-05(S)

SuppA-1 (Rev. 3/2005)

Supplement A: Questions Regarding Citizenship Status

25-171-0305-05(S)

FSA-1 (Rev. 3/2005)

Food Stamp Benefits Application

25-411-0305-05(S)

NCRB (Rev. 3/2005)

Noncitizen Resource Brochure

The following brochure is now available in Haitian Creole.

25-402-0305-05(HC)

NCIB (3/2005)

What Noncitizens Need to Know



From the Hotline

- Q.** Last week, a TAFDC grantee in my office received a School Change Notice from the Centralized Learnfare Unit (CLU). The notice informs her that one of her sons was no longer enrolled in the school he had been attending for the past three years. The notice asks the grantee to provide information on her child's current school, current grade and current school address. It has been over ten days since the grantee was sent this notice, and I still have not heard back from her. How do I proceed?
- A.** If the grantee has not responded to CLU's School Change Notice, take the appropriate action to close only this child. At the AU Composition Results window, select the appropriate child, reason category (noncooperation) and reason (fail to submit required verifications). Neither the grantee nor the entire AU is to be closed for failing to provide this information.

More details on Learnfare procedures are in *A User's Guide: Transitional*

Assistance Programs and BEACON, Chapter XIII-K-8 through XIII-K-17 and 106 CMR: 203.900.

- Q.** If I reduce the grant amount by ending a child's TAFDC eligibility for failing to provide verifications for the Learnfare requirement (as described in the previous question), can I then apply the Food Stamp Attributed Amount to avoid increasing the food stamp benefits for this AU?
- A.** No. Failure to provide verifications *is not* a Food Stamp Attributed reason. (Remember, however, that failure to meet the Learnfare school attendance requirement *is* a Food Stamp Attributed reason.) For more information on the Food Stamp Attributed Amount, refer to *A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON*, Chapter XIV-D-4 through XIV-D-9. Also, see 106 CMR: 363.220 for more details.
- Q.** A food stamp applicant recently arrived here in Massachusetts from Puerto Rico. While in Puerto Rico, she received the Nutritional Assistance

Program (NAP) benefit. Do I count the NAP benefit as income in determining her food stamp benefit amount?

- A.** No. These benefits are not considered income in the Food Stamp Program because, according to the USDA, the benefit is not provided in the form of money payable directly to the household.
- Q.** My applicant received NAP benefits a couple of weeks ago in Puerto Rico. Today (March 16, 2005), she's applying for food stamp benefits here in Massachusetts. If the applicant received an NAP benefit in Puerto Rico for the period beginning on March 1st and ending on March 31st, what is her food stamp start date?
- A.** If all other food stamp eligibility factors are met, this applicant's benefit start date is March 16, 2005. There is no delay in issuing food stamp benefits.

Transportation Changes

TAFDC

A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON - Update 57

This update transmits the following changes to Chapter XII, Section C: Transportation:

Division of Career Services (DCS) (formerly Division of Employment and Training (DET)) will no longer provide transportation payments for recipients who are participating in Basic Job Search or Structured Job Search. Transportation for eligible recipients will now be provided by TransAction Associates. No additional AU Manager action is required.

The minimum number of hours the recipient must work to receive transportation payments has changed from 30 hours per week to 20 hours per week.

"Prejudices are the chains forged by ignorance to keep men apart."

Countess of Blessington