

FYI

USDA Clarification Regarding Food Stamp Work Program Caretaker Exemption

The Food Stamp Household Composition Parent/Child rule requires a child (defined as under 22 years old) who lives with a natural, adoptive or stepparent to be in the same FS AU. Some children will be subject to the Food Stamp Work Program requirement since an AU member between the ages of 18 and 49 is Work Program required unless exempt.

USDA recently issued a clarification regarding the caretaker exemption at 106 CMR 362.320(B)(3). An AU member must be exempted from the Work Program rules if living with a sibling who is under the age of 18. For example, a child who is 20 years old, and lives with his parent(s) and younger brother, aged 12, is exempt from the Work Program rules. There is no need to show that the 20-year-old sibling has responsibility for the care of the younger brother.

Food Stamp Work Program regulations will be updated shortly to clarify this policy.

FYI

BEACON Today

The publication of *BEACON Today* is being suspended. These bulletins were originally published as a method of getting BEACON information to users quickly during BEACON development and implementation. Currently, there are other mechanisms for informing local offices when an Increment is being deployed or when there are problems with a Batch Job or an interface. These *MIS Customer Services Bulletins* are generated on an as needed basis. The last few *BEACON Today*s simply announced a new Increment and directed you to What's New in BEACON Help. For the future, when you receive an *MIS Customer Services Bulletin* announcing the installation of a new increment, go to Help in the new increment and read What's New. In the future, should immediate communication be required because of major BEACON development, the publication of *BEACON Today* will be reinstated.

FYI

Globe Santa Mailing

In early October, active TAFDC, EAEDC and FS recipients, who reside in the Globe Santa geographic area, received the "Holiday Gift Verification" letter to send with their letter requesting to participate in the Boston Globe/Globe Santa program. This verification letter lists the Globe Santa address, and the name, date of birth and gender of all children age 14 years or younger.

A second mailing is scheduled for early November for new cases approved after the first mailing.

Families requesting income verification for Globe Santa, who did not receive the letter should be referred to the Central Office Income Verification Unit at 1-800-632-8095.

