



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
600 Washington Street • Boston, MA 02111

MITT ROMNEY
Governor

RONALD PRESTON
Secretary

KERRY HEALEY
Lieutenant Governor

JOHN A. WAGNER
Commissioner

Field Operations Memo 2003-7C
April 29, 2003

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
From: *cd* Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: Farm Bill 2002: 4/1/2003 Food Stamp Noncitizen Restoration Part III
Ineligible Noncitizens

Background

Effective April 1, 2003, the Farm Bill restored food stamp eligibility to Legal Permanent Residents and other qualified noncitizens as defined in 106 CMR 362.240 who have lived in the United States for five years or longer. Based on BEACON noncitizen information, 1,630 noncitizens (former SSFSP recipients) do not appear eligible for federal food stamp benefits

This field operations memo:

- Discusses the notice that was sent to noncitizens (former SSFSP recipients) that do not appear eligible for federal food stamp benefits.
 - Provides information regarding a report of these ineligible noncitizens. This report will be sent separately by e-mail.
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**Notice to
Ineligible
Noncitizens**

Based on BEACON information in the Noncitizen Window, 1,630 noncitizens (former SSFSP recipients) do not appear eligible for federal food stamp benefits. These ineligible noncitizens will be sent a notice (Attachment A) this week stating that according to Department records, the person(s) listed appear ineligible for federal FS. The notice shows the name, noncitizen status, status granted date and U.S. entry date for each ineligible noncitizen(s). It also tells the household to contact the Department if the noncitizen status(es) listed is incorrect or has changed. Page two of the notice identifies the eligible noncitizen statuses for federal food stamp benefits.

Enclosed with the notice is the *Massachusetts Food and Nutrition Programs* brochure which gives information about food banks, school meals programs, WIC benefits and other nutrition programs in the Commonwealth.

**Report of
Ineligible
Noncitizens**

The Ineligible Noncitizen list will be sent separately by e-mail. This list will identify the ineligible noncitizens. It will be sorted by AU Manager within TAO. **This report is for information purposes only. No AU Manager action is required.**

Questions

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline Designee call the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478.

Important Notice - Read Carefully

Este Mensaje Es Importante – Lea Cuidadosamente

{BEACON USER STREET ADDRESS}
{BEACON USER CITY, STATE, ZIP}

Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance

{RECIPIENT NAME}
{RECIPIENT ADDRESS}
{RECIPIENT CITY/TOWN, STATE, ZIP}

{RECIPIENT SSN}
{BEACON USER OFFICE NAME}

{MM/DD/YYYY}

Dear {GRANTEE}:

The Department ran out of funding for the State Supplemental Food Stamp Program for fiscal year 2003. Because state funding was not restored, the Department has ended the State Supplemental Food Stamp Program (SSFSP).

The following is a list of SSFSP member(s) in your case who were closed. We have listed the following information on each person as it appears on our records: the noncitizen status, the date the status started, and the date of entry into U.S.

Person	Noncitizen Status	Status Start	U.S. Entry Date
{AP NAME}	{STATUS}	{START_DATE}	{ENTRY_DATE}
{AP NAME}	{STATUS}	{START_DATE}	{ENTRY_DATE}
{AP NAME}	{STATUS}	{START_DATE}	{ENTRY_DATE}
{AP NAME}	{STATUS}	{START_DATE}	{ENTRY_DATE}
{AP NAME}	{STATUS}	{START_DATE}	{ENTRY_DATE}
{AP NAME}	{STATUS}	{START_DATE}	{ENTRY_DATE}

Based on the above information, this person(s) is not eligible for federal food stamp (FS) benefits. If the information we have listed above is **NOT** correct, please contact your DTA office immediately. We will need proof of your current status. If you need help getting proof of your status, let us know. On the next page we have listed those statuses that are eligible for FS benefits.

Remember: If you and/or a household member(s) became a U.S. Citizen, you may be eligible for FS benefits. Anyone can apply for FS benefits at any time. If denied, you will have the right to appeal.

Noncitizens can be eligible for FS benefits if they are in one of the following groups:

- * Certain Refugees, Asylees and Deportation Withheld Noncitizens;
- * Certain Cuban/Haitian Entrants and Amerasians;
- * American Indians born in Canada or certain other border areas;
- * Members of the Hmong or Highland Laotian Tribes or their Spouses/Children;
- * Certain victims of severe forms of trafficking (bondage, slavery) victims of domestic violence who meet other eligibility criteria;
- * Battered Noncitizens, Parolees and Conditional Entrants who:
 - (a) are elderly and were lawfully residing in the U.S. on 8/22/96;
 - (b) are children and were lawfully residing in the U.S. on 8/22/96; or
 - (c) are currently disabled and are receiving a disability based benefits.
- * Legal Permanent Residents (green card holders) who:
 - (a) entered as refugees, asylees or were granted deportation withheld;
 - (b) are elderly and were lawfully residing in the U.S. on 8/22/96;
 - (c) are children and were lawfully residing in the U.S. on 8/22/96
 - (d) have 40 qualifying quarters of work (their own work, and/or the work history of a spouse or the parent of a child under age 18); or
 - (e) are currently disabled and are receiving a disability based benefits.

Beginning April 1, 2003, you may be eligible for FS benefits if you have lived in the U.S. for five years and during this time have been a legal permanent resident or had one of the other lawful statuses listed above. You do not need to show a work history, disability or other conditions to be eligible.

If anyone in your household is a noncitizen who might qualify for FS benefits, please bring in, mail or fax proof to your worker immediately. Your worker can help you figure out the status. It is a good idea to ask for help right away in case you need to get other information to show you and/or the other person(s) is eligible.

If you are a part of an assistance unit currently receiving FS benefits, and an additional person(s) is found eligible for FS benefits, your FS benefits may increase or may remain the same depending on other circumstances that affect FS eligibility.

If you have any questions about your case, you should call {WORKER_PHONE_NUMBER}, and ask for your worker, {WORKER_NAME}. You may ask for help from your local legal services office by calling: {LEGAL_SERVICE_NAME} at {LEGAL_SERVICE_TELEPHONE}.