



John

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

JANE SWIFT
 Governor

ROBERT P. GITTENS
 Secretary

JOHN A. WAGNER
 Commissioner

Field Operations Memo 2002-20
 October 1, 2002

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff

From: *C.D.*
C.A.P. Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

Re: Food Stamp Farm Bill of 2002: Disabled Noncitizens

Overview

One of the provisions of the Food Stamp Farm Bill of 2002 is the restoration of food stamp eligibility to qualified noncitizens who are otherwise eligible and who are receiving or are certified to receive disability benefits **regardless of the date of entry into the U.S.**

Disabled Noncitizen

A noncitizen, **receiving or certified to receive disability benefits**, is now eligible for federal food stamp benefits as of 10/1/2002 **regardless of the date of entry** into the U.S. if he or she has a status of Refugee, Asylee, Withholding of Deportation, Parolee, Cuban/Haitian Entrant, Conditional Entrant, Amerasian or LPR.

Prior to the Farm Bill, a disabled noncitizen had to be residing in the U.S. on 8/22/96 to be eligible for federal food stamp benefits.

PRO Decision

If PRO indicates that an individual's disability meets criteria listing (decision code 100), equals criteria listing (decision code 110) for SSI, or meets or equals the SSI standards using the vocational standards (decision code 120), the PRO disability decision can be used to establish the individual is disabled for food stamp purposes. These PRO codes mean that the individual has been certified disabled using SSI *criteria* in accordance with 106 CMR 362.210 (A)(1). Record this disability information by going to the Disability window, using the dropdown box and selecting SSI Disabled Recipient/Certified.

Note: PRO decision code 120 is now acceptable to identify a disability for food stamp purposes.

MIS Support MIS has identified current SSFSP recipients with a noncitizen status as listed on the previous page who have been identified as disabled on the Disability window for the following reasons:

RR Disability Recipient	RSDI Disabled Recipient/Certified
SSI Disabled Recipient/Certified	Aid to Blind Recipient/Certified
MassHealth Disability	Disabled Child Deceased Veteran/Certified
Disabled Spouse Deceased Veteran/Certified	Totally Disabled Veteran/Certified
Government Disability Retirement Recipient	

These SSFSP recipients were automatically converted to FSP benefits as of 9/23/2002 with the implementation of BEACON Increment 2.0.18.

Regulations State Letter 1237 will issue revised regulations on this topic.

Questions If you have any question, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8483.
