

From the Hotline - FS/SSFSP Noncitizen Questions

Q. Do the food stamp proration rules (Field Operations Memo 98-8) apply to a food stamp AU containing ALL federally-eligible noncitizens?

A. No.

Q. Do the food stamp proration rules (Field Operations Memo 98-8) apply to a food stamp AU containing ALL SSFSP-eligible noncitizens?

A. No.

Q. Do the food stamp proration rules (Field Operations Memo 98-8) apply to a combination food stamp AU containing both FS-eligible and SSFSP-eligible noncitizens?

A. The noncitizen proration rules may apply to a combination food stamp AU.

(a) If an SSFSP-eligible member has income (earned or unearned, including part of a cash assistance grant), the SSFSP-eligible noncitizen's income must be prorated.

(b) If an SSFSP-eligible noncitizen has income AND is billed/pays shelter costs, the shelter costs must be prorated.

Q. Why is Type GR income always attributed to Client 00 on the PACES Worksheet?

A. Type GR income was programmed under Client 00 because for purposes of the proration calculation it does not matter to whom the grant is paid. PACES attributes GR income to all active AU members represented on the PACES Input Document (PID). The GR entry tells PACES to prorate the grant among all active AU members. **Do not use Type GR income unless all members are included in the grant.**

Q. I have a combination case in which several members share in a TAFDC grant and one member receives EAEDC. If I enter Type GR with these grants, will the grants be prorated properly?

A. No. The GR entry tells PACES to prorate the grant among all active AU members represented on the PID. In this situation, both the TAFDC grant and EAEDC grant must be prorated manually and entered on the PID as OU income. **Do not use Type GR income unless all active members are included in the grant.**

Q. How are child support payments treated in a combination (FS/SSFSP) case?

A. According to a recent clarification from USDA, child support income belongs to the child(ren). It is only prorated if the child(ren) is SSFSP-eligible.

Q. How are DEFRA payments treated in a combination (FS/SSFSP) case?

A. According to a recent clarification from USDA, DEFRA income belongs to the parent. It is only prorated if the parent is SSFSP-eligible.

Q. Certain Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) are eligible for food stamp benefits without having 40 quarters if they were adjusted to permanent resident from a previous status of refugee, asylee, deportee, Cuban/Haitian or

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Amerasian within seven years of the original status granted date. Are there codes on the I-151 or I-551 which identify that the LPR was adjusted from a previous status?

A. Yes, the following codes on an I-551/151 indicate that the noncitizen was adjusted to LPR status from a previous status:

(a) I-551/151 coded RE-6, RE-7 or RE-8 indicates that a Refugee was adjusted to LPR status.

(b) I-551 /151 coded AS-6, AS-7 or AS-8 indicates that an Asylee was adjusted to LPR status.

(c) I-551/151 coded AM-1, AM-2, AM-3, AM-6, AM-7 or AM-8 indicates an Amerasian was adjusted to LPR status.

(d) I-551/151 coded CU6, CU7 or CH7 indicates a Cuban/Haitian was adjusted to LPR status.

Note: There is no code on the I-551/151 to indicate a noncitizen was previously in a Deportation Withheld status.

Structured Job Search Program

TAFDC

The TAFDC Procedural Guide Update 026

The TAFDC Procedural Guide Update adds the description of the Structured Job Search Program to Chapter 5 where ESP components are explained. This material adds specific references for the inclusion of BEACON into the current procedures.

Smith v. McIntire Lawsuit

TAFDC

Field Operations Memo 99-10 L

This Field Operations Memo informs Transitional Assistance Office Staff of an additional court order that impacted recipients in the *Smith v. McIntire* lawsuit. Three groups must be reviewed in conjunction with this order:

- former recipients previously denied for failure to keep an appointment;
- former recipients who were denied for withdrawing their request for reinstatement; and
- former recipients denied due to excess income.

FYI

MassHealth Benefits Desk Guide

The Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) developed a second MassHealth Benefits desk guide. The new desk guide lists the coverage types for people who are age 65 or older, institutionalized or receiving home- or community-based services, and for certain other eligibility groups.

This desk guide is being distributed to Transitional Assistance Workers as a reference tool. It is in addition to the MassHealth Benefits desk guide that was issued in September 1998 for people under age 65 who are not institutionalized.