

Quality Corner

This month we will review an error on how to determine if an individual can claim enough work quarters to be eligible for federal food stamp benefits.

Qualifying Work Quarters for LPR Noncitizens

Two recent error cases involved noncitizens who were incorrectly identified as SSFSP recipients. In the first case, the wife had not worked and would appear to have been eligible only for state food stamp benefits. Her husband, however, was working at the time and had more than 40 quarters of work before they applied for food stamp benefits in 2001. Since they had been married for 11 years, and had not been on a means-tested program, all the quarters were countable for the wife. As a result, she is eligible for federal food stamp benefits rather than SSFSP.

In a similar case, the wife, a widow, was receiving Social Security survivor's benefits. In order to receive that benefit, her spouse must have worked at least 40 quarters, thereby making her eligible for federal benefits.

What Can an AU Manager Do?

Investigate all possible sources of eligibility for federal food stamp benefits. Be sure to look at other family members whose work quarters may be credited to the noncitizen. In each of these cases, the wife was entitled to federal food stamp benefits through her husband's history of employment. In other cases, a noncitizen may be credited with the work quarters of a parent while the noncitizen was under age 18. Looking into all potential federal eligibility could have eliminated these errors. See 106 CMR 362.220(A)(3) for the policy on qualifying work quarters. You can also refer to the BEACON Help windows which include a good deal of information regarding 40 quarters if you need policy clarification.



COMMUNICATION is the KEY

TAFDC - Child Care

TAFDC
State Letter 1225

This State Letter transmits revisions to the TAFDC regulations on child care. The Office of Child Care Services (OCCS) currently administers child-care services and will promulgate new regulations for their agency effective June 21, 2002. Therefore, DTA is eliminating duplicative, unnecessary or conflicting regulations, including chapter 106 CMR 308.

The Department is also revising its regulations regarding individuals eligible for child-care services to include teen parents, certain ineligible grantees, sanctioned individuals trying to cure a Work Program sanction and individuals applying for an extension of benefits who are meeting the Basic Job Search or Structured Job Search requirements.

