

GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
Center for Employment & Economic Supports

January 26, 2011

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TO: FS Directors, TA Directors, WMS and Staff Development Coordinators

FROM: Russell Sykes, Deputy Commissioner, Center for Employment and Economic Supports

SUBJECT: Reminder on the Budgeting of Restored FS benefits for Households with Individuals who Have Received a Retroactive Determination of SSI Eligibility

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Food Stamp Policy Bureau at 1-800-343-8859; ext. 3-1469

Purpose

The purpose of this GIS is to re-iterate and remind local districts of the federally-mandated policy described in 88 INF-50 and in Section 10.3.b (See **NOTE** on page 221) of the Food Stamp Source Book (FSSB). 88 INF-50 describes the policy and procedures for calculating and issuing restored food stamp benefits to FS applicant/recipient households when a member of the household has been determined by the Social Security Administration to be **retroactively** eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

Please note that this policy only affects FS applicant/recipient households that, prior to this determination of SSI eligibility, did not have any aged/disabled household members, and therefore were not entitled to receive either the excess medical deduction or the uncapped excess shelter expense to which households having any aged/disabled members are entitled.

Policy

A household **without** any aged/disabled members may apply for or be receiving food stamp benefits as either a NTA-FS or TA-FS household while a decision on the eligibility of a household member for SSI benefits is pending. **When such a household has a member who is determined to be retroactively eligible for SSI – i.e., determined to be “disabled,” the household is entitled to the uncapped excess shelter deduction and the excess medical deduction (if the household incurs such excess expenses) retroactive to either the filing date of the application for food stamp benefits or the date of SSI eligibility, whichever is later.**

Required Action -- Restored Benefit Calculation

The amount of the restored food stamp benefits is calculated by subtracting the amount of the food stamp benefits that the household actually received from the amount of benefits that the household would have received had the excess shelter deduction been uncapped and the excess medical deduction been applied.

The budget (or budgets) used to calculate what the household would have received should be identical to the budgets used to calculate what the household actually received, **except for the uncapped excess shelter deduction and the excess medical deduction.**

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The new SSI benefit amount must **not** be used to calculate what the household would have received. This is because, while the entitlement to the deductions is retroactive to the date of SSI eligibility, retroactive SSI payments almost always are paid as a lump sum payment not as a recurring payment and therefore are excluded as income.

(Note: The new income from the monthly SSI benefit amount, of course, must be budgeted prospectively).