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General Information System (GIS) Message

Section 1

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Section 2

The purpose of this GIS message is to inform social services districts (districts) that the federal Title 42 public health policy expired May 11, 2023. As a result, districts may experience an increase in non-citizens applying for benefits within their districts.

As background on this issue, in March of 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an order under Sections 362 and 365 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 265, 268 ("Title 42"), which temporarily suspended the admission of certain non-citizens to the country.

As Title 42 policy has expired, districts may experience an increase of individuals and families who crossed the border into the U.S., may have immediate needs and seek TA and other assistance. This GIS serves as a notification of this potential influx, and a reminder that these non-citizens are to be

treated the same as any other individual applying for benefits at a district office. District workers should refer to the [LDSS-4579](#): “Non-Citizen Eligibility Desk Aid” when determining a non-citizen’s eligibility for TA, HEAP and SNAP.

Additionally, in accordance with [13-ADM-07](#), districts must use the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system to verify non-citizens’ immigration documentation when determining their eligibility for TA and SNAP. Benefits must not be delayed, denied, reduced, or terminated, pending verification of non-citizens’ documentation through the SAVE system. If all other factors of eligibility have been established, and the non-citizens are otherwise eligible, benefits must be granted while awaiting responses from the SAVE system.

It is expected that some non-citizens who enter the U.S. once the Title 42 policy ends will be granted parole for a short period of time. If a non-citizen applies for TA and presents unexpired immigration documentation that indicates they have been paroled into the U.S. and they do not have any other immigration documentation that indicates their parole is no longer valid, the non-citizen may be eligible for TA, if otherwise eligible. The district worker should review the [LDSS-4579](#) to determine which, if any, benefits the non-citizen may be eligible for and to assign the correct Welfare Management System (WMS) Alien Citizenship Indicator (ACI) code. For those non-citizens granted parole for less than one year (ACI code T), district workers may wish to enter an Anticipated Future Action (AFA) Code on WMS (Rest of State only), such as “999 – Other”, or use another method to remind them to reassess eligibility near the end of the parole period. Districts that do not have AFA codes available in WMS (New York City) should track those non-citizens granted parole for less than one year in their local systems to ensure that eligibility is reevaluated near the end of the parole period. For further guidance on determining benefit eligibility for parolees, districts should refer to [GIS 23 TA/DC017](#) and [GIS 23 TA/DC036](#).

In instances where a non-citizen applies for TA, HEAP, or SNAP and is denied because they are unable to provide immigration documentation that supports a non-citizen status that would be satisfactory for benefit eligibility, the district should refer those non-citizens to the New York State Office for New Americans (ONA) hotline: 1-800-566-7636.

If a district has eligibility questions regarding any type of immigration documentation that a non-citizen presents, the district may contact the TA Bureau by calling: 518-474-9344 or emailing: [tabureau@otda.ny.gov](mailto:tabureau@otda.ny.gov).

Districts are reminded that there are not any eligibility requirements to receive shelter under Code Blue and there cannot be any restrictions to providing shelter if temperatures drop below 32°F. If a homeless non-citizen who is not eligible for TA due to their non-citizen status seeks shelter during Code Blue, the district must offer them shelter.