



Department of Human Resources  
311 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration  
**ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

Control Number: 03-49

Effective Date: July 1, 2003

Issuance Date: June 6, 2003

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT  
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**RE: EXCLUDED RESOURCES – INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS  
(IDA) AND EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC)**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMPS**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS**

**SUMMARY:**

The policy change described in this action transmittal continues our efforts to streamline eligibility procedures for Food Stamps and to increase policy consistency between the Food Stamp and Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) programs. Federal legislative changes in the Farm Bill allow states to match food stamp policy with TCA in a limited way. Since TCA does not count IDAs or federal or state EITC as a resource, we can exclude them for food stamps. The effective date of the changes is **July 1, 2003**.

**ACTION REQUIRED**

**Individual Development Account (IDA)**

Individual Development Account (IDA) funds help low income working individuals and families to save money to buy a first home, start a business or for post secondary education. IDAs were excludable only when federal funding was involved. **Effective July 1, 2003, case managers will exclude all IDA funds, regardless of funding.** Do not enter IDA information on CARES.

## **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**

Customers receive the EITC with their wages or as a tax refund. Case managers excluded EITC funds as a resource for up to 12 months. **Effective July 1, 2003, case managers will exclude all EITC funds as a resource, with no time limit.** Do not enter EITC Information on CARES.

## **INQUIRIES**

Direct FS policy questions to Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939 or Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333. Direct TCA inquiries to Jo-Ann Showalter at 410-767-7956 or Gretchen Simpson at 410-767-7937.

cc: DHR Executive Staff  
FIA Management Staff  
Constituent Services  
Help Desk