



Department of Human Resources
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FIA INFORMATION MEMO

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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND CASE MANAGERS
MCHP SUPERVISORS, LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS**

**FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOSEPH E. DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHMH, OOE**

RE: MEXICO'S *MATRICULA CONSULAR* IDENTIFICATION CARD

PROGRAM AFFECTED: ALL PROGRAMS

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

Representatives of Mexican government agencies and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) established a collaborative partnership in July 2004 to provide information and outreach about nutrition programs available to Mexican Americans and Mexican nationals who live in the United States (U.S.).

The Mexican consulate network, which consists of 45 consulates, is the largest network of Hispanic consulates in the U.S. The consulates, in partnership with USDA, are working together to help eliminate barriers and increase access to nutrition assistance programs among Mexican nationals.

One of the functions of the Mexican consulates is to provide documentary services to Mexican nationals such as passports and consular ID's. A *Matricula Consular* ID card (also known as *Matricula Consular de Alta Seguridad* (MCAS), or as a Certificate of Consular Registration) is a document that consulates issue to Mexican foreign nationals that reside in the U.S. To get the card, the applicant must appear in person at the consular office and present several documents showing proof of nationality and address.

If an applicant for benefits presents an MCAS:

- You may use it to identify the individual and as proof of nationality.
- **You cannot use it to verify an immigrant's legal immigration status in the U.S. or eligibility for food stamp benefits.**
- You may also use the MCAS as verification of residence, but should take into consideration that the address on the card might not be current.

cc: FIA Management Staff Constituent Services DHR Help Desk