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

FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA

RE: GIFT CARDS

PROGRAMS AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM, TEMPORARY CASH
ASSISTANCE, REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE,
TEMPORARY DISABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM,
AND CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

Summary:

Current policy does not address how to treat gift cards. Gift cards are usually restricted
to purchasing a limited range of goods, and are similar to household goods that we
exclude from resources by longstanding policy. Gift card amounts are also usually
insufficient to affect a household’s ability to purchase food or other household goods.

Action Required:

Based on these considerations, gift cards are excluded from consideration as income or
resources in determining a household’s eligibility or benefit level for:

- Food Stamp Program
- Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)
- Refugee Cash Assistance
- Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP)
- Child Care Subsidy Program

Note: The value of gift cards is countable for Medical Assistance and the Maryland
Children’s Health Program.

CARES Procedures:
On the UINC screen, enter the dollar value of gift cards as MU – Other Countable
Medical Assistance Only.
Inquiries:

Direct policy questions concerning the Food Stamp Program to Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939 or Rick McClendon at 410-767-7307 and TCA questions to Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333. Direct TDAP questions to Cynthia Carpenter 410-767-7495 and Child Care Subsidy questions to Betsy Blair at 410-767-7845.

cc: DHR Executive Staff
    DHR Systems Support Center
    FIA Management Staff
    Constituent Services