



Department of Human Resources
311 W. Saratoga Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-3521

F I A ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Issuance Date: NOVEMBER 29, 1996

Effective Date: December 1, 1996

Control Number: FIA/OPA # 97-61

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

FROM: KEVIN MATHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA

RE: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE TIME LIMITS

PROGRAM AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)

ORIGINATING OPA/DIVISION OF PROGRAM POLICY AND
REGULATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

One of the major goals of the Family Investment Program (FIP) is to move customers from dependency to independence in the quickest manner possible. State legislation, Senate Bill 778, provides for time limits to receive TCA if Federal legislation imposes time limits. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 did establish time limits. This action transmittal delineates the time limits that will be used to ensure the customer's transition from TCA to independence, primarily through employment.

24 MONTH TIME LIMIT

FIP policy requires that an adult parent or adult caretaker relative who receives Temporary Cash Assistance engage in a work activity once the local department has determined that the parent or caretaker is ready for a work activity. Federal legislation imposes a maximum period to receive benefits before being in a work activity. An adult caretaker in the assistance unit needs to be in a State defined work activity by the 24 month time limit. The 24 months of TCA benefits do not

have to be consecutive. There are no exceptions to this requirement. Any month that a customer receives benefits in another state will be included in the count toward the 24 month time limit. If the customer has received benefits in other states, the benefit months from all other states are combined. Assistance cannot be paid for an adult who is not in a State defined work activity in the 25th month of receiving assistance and beyond. More information will be sent concerning additional work activities that will meet the requirement.

60 MONTH TIME LIMIT

TCA benefits will not be paid to a family that includes an adult who has received benefits for 60 months unless he meets specific exception criteria. The 60 months do not have to be consecutive. When determining the number of months that a parent or caretaker has received TCA, disregard the following time periods:

- Any month TCA was received while the individual was still a minor child;
- Any month TCA was received during which the individual was not the head of a household or married to the head of the household;
- Any month TCA was received during which the individual was receiving counseling because the individual was a victim of domestic violence from a spouse, ex-spouse, or partner in an intimate relationship. The definition of domestic violence includes:
 - * physical injury or acts that threaten to result in physical injury of the individual,
 - * sexual abuse,
 - * sexual activity involving a dependent child,
 - * a caretaker relative being forced to engage in nonconsensual sexual acts or activities,
 - * threats of, or attempts at, physical or sexual abuse,
 - * mental abuse,
 - * neglect or deprivation of medical care, or
 - * false imprisonment
- Any month TCA was received during which the individual was living on an Indian reservation or in an Alaskan native village with 50% unemployment.

Up to 20% of the cases with an adult may be exempt from the lifetime limit due to hardship when the adult is unable to become employed through no fault of his own.

Every month that the customer receives Temporary Cash Assistance, Emergency Assistance, or supportive services funded by the work program, will be considered in the 60 month count unless disregarded due to the above mentioned criteria. Medical Assistance and Child Care benefits in

lieu of receiving TCA do not count toward the 60 month limit because the child care is not funded by the work program. When the customer has received the maximum of 60 months of benefits the adult customer will not receive benefits in any TCA assistance unit. Benefits would continue to be available for the children through vouchers. A systems counter will be developed in the future to track the months of assistance.

AIMS INSTRUCTIONS:

Two new fields will be added to the AIMS system. The first field will be a counter. The counter will be automatically updated for all P02 and P22 cases each active month. The second field will be used to track exemption reasons. The exemption reasons are listed in this action transmittal. The counter will not be updated if an exemption reason is entered. The AIMS exemption codes are as follows:

- PI Physical injury
- SA Sexual abuse
- SC Sexual activity involving a dependent child
- NS Caretaker relative non-consensual sex activity
- AT Attempted or threatened sexual abuse
- MA Mental abuse
- ND Neglect/deprivation of medical care
- IR Resides on Indian reservation with 50% unemployment
- AV Resides in Alaskan native village with 50% unemployment

CARES INSTRUCTIONS:

A request has been submitted for a new field to be added to the CARES system which will be used to capture exemptions. Until this field is available, if a customer is exempt from time limits, type the exemption reason in the place of birth, hospital field on the DEM1 screen. Once the new exemption field is added, a query report of the exemptions will be run so that the exemption reasons can be entered in the correct field. The CARES exemption codes are as follows:

- PI Physical injury
- SA Sexual abuse
- SC Sexual activity involving a dependent child
- NS Caretaker relative non-consensual sex activity
- AT Attempted or threatened sexual abuse
- MA Mental abuse
- ND Neglect/deprivation of medical care
- IR Resides on Indian reservation with 50% unemployment
- AV Resides in Alaskan native village with 50% unemployment

ACTION REQUIRED OF: All local Departments

ACTION DUE: December 1, 1996

INQUIRIES: Please direct questions to Patricia Jeffers at (410) 767-7143.

**cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services**