



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: 07-19

Effective Date: UPON RECEIPT

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**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