



Department of Human Resources
311 W. Saratoga St.
Baltimore, MD. 21201

**Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

Control Number: #08-28

Effective Date: Upon Receipt

Issuance Date: April 17, 2008

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

FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**RE: AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES FROM MILITARY PERSONNEL
DEPLOYED OVERSEAS**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM, TEMPORARY DISABILITY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, TEMPORARY CASH
ASSISTANCE**

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

We recently received guidance from the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) about resources in bank accounts that belong to military personnel who are deployed overseas. Because of the deployment the person may have given parents or other individuals access to his or her bank accounts to allow them to handle his or her affairs.

According to current food stamp policy we must consider jointly owned resources as available in their entirety to each household unless the applicant household verifies that the resources are inaccessible. Under the current policy some persons who have access to resources of deployed military personnel are ineligible for food stamps.

Note: Although FNS provided this information for the Food Stamp Program, the policy also applies to all of the programs listed above.

ACTION REQUIRED:

This action transmittal clarifies that if a household with access to a deployed service person's bank account can document to the satisfaction of the local department that access to the bank account is solely for paying the person's bills and the household cannot use the funds for themselves, it is an excluded resource. It is the household's responsibility to provide documentation about the arrangement. The agreement can be a verbal agreement between the person in the military and the assistance unit.

Note: If the assistance unit is accessing a serviceperson's bank account for its own purposes, count the funds in the account as a resource.

Documentation includes, but is not limited to:

- A written statement from the serviceperson
- A statement from the financial institution

INQUIRIES:

Please direct food stamp policy questions to Rick McClendon at 410-767-7307 and TCA questions to Gretchen Simpson at 410-767-7937. Direct TDAP questions to Cynthia Carpenter at 410-767-7495 and MA questions to the DHMH policy unit at 410-767-1463.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk