



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


## FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Issuance Date: NOVEMBER 26, 1996

Effective Date: December 9, 1996

Control Number: FIA /OPA 97-55

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

FROM:   
KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA

RE: NEW STATE RESIDENTS (INTER-STATE MIGRATION)

PROGRAM AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OPA/DIVISION OF PROGRAM POLICY AND  
REGULATION

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There is no residency requirement in Maryland. Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) benefits are available to eligible customers who move from another state and take up residence in Maryland. This transmittal outlines the procedure for handling eligibility and payment for applicants who move to Maryland.

### Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)

Effective December 9, 1996, customers who apply for TCA benefits and have been residing in Maryland for less than 12 months will be required to meet two new eligibility requirements. First, customers who move to Maryland and are approved for TCA benefits must be paid the benefit amount from their prior state of residence if it is less than Maryland's grant amount. The family receives this lower amount for the first 12 months they live in Maryland. If the benefit in the other state is higher, the Maryland benefit is paid. Customers must disclose the date that they moved to Maryland. The prior state and the entry date may be verified if questionable. The count of the 12 month period begins with the date of entry into the state. Any portion of a month counts as a whole month.

- Example 1: The applicant applies on January 10, 1997 stating he moved to Maryland on January 1, 1997 from a state paying a lower benefit. The lower benefit amount will be given from January to December if the case is otherwise eligible.
- Example 2: The applicant applies on October 3, 1997, stating he moved to Maryland on January 1, 1997 from a state paying a lower benefit. The lower benefit amount will be given from October to December.
- Example 3: The applicant applies on December 22, 1997 stating he moved to Maryland on October 18, 1996. This customer will receive the Maryland grant amount regardless of the amount paid in the other state.

The second eligibility element prohibits the payment of cash benefits for 12 months, to legal immigrants who move to Maryland from another state, unless the former state pays cash benefits to legal immigrants. The count of the 12 month period begins with the date of entry into Maryland. Any portion of a month counts as a whole month.

- Example 1: The applicant applies on July 14, 1997. The family consists of a legal immigrant mother, an immigrant child and one citizen child. The immigrant mother and child entered the country in 1995 and the family moved to Maryland from another state on April 5, 1997. The former state of residence will not continue to pay benefits for legal immigrants. The immigrant mother and child are ineligible for benefits until April, 1998, although the citizen child is eligible in July 1997.
- Example 2: The applicant applies on January 4, 1997. The family consists of a legal immigrant mother and two citizen children. The immigrant mother entered the country after 8/22/96 and delivered twin boys on November 30, 1996. She moved to Maryland on January 1, 1997 from a state that paid cash assistance to legal immigrants. This immigrant mother is eligible for State TCA payments herself and federal benefits for her children in January.

### **AIMS INSTRUCTIONS:**

To reduce the TCA benefit to a lower payment standard:

- \* Subtract the allowable TCA payment standard from the payment standard of the customer's prior state of residence.
- \* Enter the results as unearned income type "P07" (other unearned income).
- \* If the 12th month of Maryland residence occurs before the certification end date, set a 745 to remind the worker of record to remove the income at the appropriate time.



## **IMMIGRANT AIMS INSTRUCTIONS**

- \* Determine if the immigrant household member is eligible for TCA from either Federal or State funds.

If the immigrant is ineligible for payment,

- \* Reduce the household size.
- \* Enter the reduced household size on the AIMS 3
- \* Document the reason for the household reduction in the case record

If the immigrant is eligible for payment,

- \* Enter the appropriate code (Y or N) in the "SPP" field (State Paid Program) for all cases, to indicate if state funds are being given to any of the immigrant household members.
- \* Document the case record. Be sure to indicate which members are receive State funded TCA.
- \* Send a manual notice.

## **IMMIGRANT CARES INSTRUCTIONS**

- \* Determine if the immigrant household member is eligible for TCA from either Federal or State funds.

If the immigrant is ineligible for payment,

- \* Code the ineligible member as a cash ineligible MA parent (IP) on the STAT screen.
- \* Enter any countable resources for the ineligible member on the applicable AST1 and AST2 screens.
- \* Document the eligibility decision on the case narrative
- \* Add text to system notice to explain the case decision

If the immigrant is eligible for payment,

- \* Enter the information on the system in the usual manner.

- \* Enter the usual valid values on the "STAT" screen for immigrants who will receive Federal TCA.
- \* **For immigrants who will receive State TCA**, enter the valid value of "FB" (family bible) in the field to verify relationship. Also use the valid value of "AC" (alien card) in the field to verify the date of birth. This will enable system tracking for immigrants who are receiving state funded TCA.
- \* A monthly query will be run to identify immigrants who are receiving State funded TCA benefits. Eventually a new "SPP" (State paid program) field will be added to the system to track this information. Once the field is in place, local departments will be instructed to use the new data field. On-going State paid cases will have the new field back filled by the central office.

**ACTION REQUIRED OF:** All Local Departments

**ACTION DUE:** December 9, 1996

**INQUIRIES:**

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

cc: **FIA Management Staff**  
**Constituent Services**