

<p>Department of Human Resources 311 W. Saratoga St. Baltimore, MD 21201-3521</p>	<p>FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL</p>
<p>Issuance Date: September 12, 1997</p>	<p>Effective Date: Upon Receipt</p> <p>Control Number: FIA/OPR 98-05 REVISED</p>

TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS/ELIGIBILITY STAFF
FINANCE OFFICERS - LOCAL DEPARTMENTS

FROM: KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
JOSEPH M. MILLSTONE, DIRECTOR, MCPA/DHMH *JMM*

RE: THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE TRUST ACT OF 1993

PROGRAMS AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE, MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE AND FOOD STAMPS

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH

SUMMARY:

This Action Transmittal updates the information on the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, and **OBSOLETE**s the Action Transmittal OPR 98-05 that was issued on July 31, 1997. A line in the margin notes the revisions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (NCSTA) is an amendment to the National and Community Service Act of 1990. It establishes a Corporation for National and Community Service. The Corporation administers national service programs such as AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps is a program that engages Americans for one or two years in exchange for an education award of \$4,725 for each completed year of service. There are three programs under AmeriCorps:

- AmeriCorps*USA - for participants of 17 years and older
- AmeriCorps*Vista - for participants of 18 years and older
- AmeriCorps*NCCC - for participants 16 to 24 years of age

The Corporation for National and Community Services also oversees three other programs. They are:

- The Senior Corps - for participants over 55 years of age
- The Youth Corps - for participants 14 to 17 years and older
- The Learn and Serve - for participants in school grades kindergarten through twelve

AmeriCorps participants receive the education award. AmeriCorps and other participants receive a living allowance (stipend) and child care allowance if needed.

The educational award is available to repay student loans, pay the cost of attendance at an institution of higher learning, pay expenses incurred while in a school-to-work program, and to pay interest expenses during a delinquent period on student loan repayments. The educational award is paid directly to the loan holder or to the institution of higher learning.

Allowances for child care are exempt from being considered as income as long as the funds are used to meet the child care expenses incurred to participate in an NCSTA program.

ACTION REQUIRED:

FOOD STAMP (FS) PROGRAM

- **Do not** count payments received from the NCSTA as income when determining eligibility for food stamp purposes **except:** for earnings to individuals who are in an on-the-job training program that is equivalent to those under section 204 (5) Title II of the Job Training Partnership Act.
 - ▶ **Count** the OJT earnings **when:** the person is 19 years old or older or under 19 years old, but not under parental control. (If necessary contact the person's employer to confirm whether the payment is an excludable allowance or countable earnings.)
 - ▶ **Do not count** OJT earnings **when:** the individual is under 19 years old and under parental control.

CHILD CARE:

If a participant receives a child care allowance from NCSTA that is insufficient to meet their total child care expense, deduct the amount of the child care expense that exceeds the child care allowance from any other countable income **not to exceed the maximum child care allowance of \$200 for each dependent child.** Persons that are employed 100 hours or more per month are eligible for up to a \$200 child care deduction. Persons that are employed less than 100 hours per month are eligible for up to a \$100 child care deduction.

TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)

Do not count payments received from the Corporation for National and Community Service as income when determining eligibility for TCA program purposes.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MA)

Do not count payments received from the Corporation for National and Community Service as income when determining eligibility for MA program purposes.

ACTION DUE DATE:

Upon receipt

ACTIONS REQUIRED OF: All Local Departments of Social Services

Direct inquiries to Yolanda Parker at (410) 767-7259.

cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Executive Staff
DHMH Executive Staff

CTF
Help Desk