



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

## FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Issuance Date: October 3, 1997

Effective Date: Upon Receipt

Control Number: 98-15

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

**FROM: KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA**

**RE: VERIFICATION OF FORTY QUARTERS FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE AND FOOD STAMPS**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH**

### SUMMARY

Provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 changed the food stamp eligibility criteria for legal immigrants. One of those criteria establishes eligibility for legal permanent residents who have 40 quarters of coverage through the Social Security Administration (SSA). Certification pending verification was allowed for all households who were considered likely to have 40 quarters of work until the SSA's Quarters of Coverage History System (QCHS) was operational. QCHS is not currently operational. The projected implementation date is December, 1997. Effective immediately, local departments **must** request and obtain verification of earnings from customers before determining eligibility for legal immigrants who claim 40 quarters of work.

### NEW POLICY

Verify earnings when determining eligibility for legal permanent residents who claim 40 quarters of work. Use covered earnings, wages or self-employment income which do require payment of FICA/SECA (Social Security) taxes, and non-covered earnings, wages or self-employment income which do not require payment of FICA/SECA taxes, when determining 40 quarters of work.

parent. If the dates are consistent with having 10 or more years of work, request verification of earnings from your customer to establish 40 quarters of coverage.

If the dates of entry into the country are inconsistent with having 10 or more years of work, the immigrant is ineligible.

### **REMINDER**

Beginning January 1, 1997, do not count any quarter in which the immigrant received any Federal means-tested public benefit as part of the 40 quarters of coverage.

### **AIMS PROCESSING**

AIMS processing remains unchanged.

### **CARES PROCESSING**

CARES processing remains unchanged.

### **CLEARLY DOCUMENT ALL CASE ACTIVITIES**

### **ACTION DUE**

The new policy and procedure is effective immediately upon receipt of this Action Transmittal. Review cases certified pending verification prior to this date and request the necessary verification to establish 40 quarters of work history.

### **INQUIRIES**

Please direct inquiries to Steve Sturgill at (410) 767-7733.

### **Attachments**

cc: FIA Management Staff  
Constituent Services

Social Security Administration  
**Consent for Release of Information**

**How To  
Complete  
This Form**

This consent form must be completed and signed only by:

the person to whom the information or record applies, or

the parent or legal guardian of a minor to whom the  
information or record applies, or

the legal guardian of a legally incompetent adult to whom  
the information or record applies

To complete this form:

Fill in the name, date of birth, and social security number of  
the person to whom the information applies.

Fill in the name and address of the individual or group to which  
we will send the information.

Fill in the reason you are requesting the information.

Check the type(s) of information you want us to release.

Sign and date the form. If you are not the person whose  
record we will release, please state your relationship to  
that person.

