



Department of Human Resources  
311 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

**FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

Control Number: #98-33

Effective Date: Upon Receipt

Issuance Date: February 9, 1998

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

**FROM: KEYVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA  
JOSEPH M. MILLSTONE, DIRECTOR, MCPA/DHMH  
LINDA HEISNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CCA**

**RE: THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE TRUST ACT OF 1993**

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE, MEDICAL  
ASSISTANCE, PURCHASE OF CARE 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 **OBSOLETES** the Action Transmittal OPR 98-05 Revised that was issued on September 12, 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 childcare 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 and benefit level for food stamp purposes.

#### **CHILD CARE EXPENSE**

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. This amount cannot exceed the maximum child care allowance of \$200 per month for each dependent child for persons employed 100 hours or more per month. Persons employed less than 100 hours per month are eligible for up to a \$100 childcare deduction for each dependent child.

#### **PURCHASE OF CARE**

**Do not count** payments received from NCSTA as income when determining eligibility for purchase of care.

#### **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 policy inquiries to Yolanda Parker at (410) 767-7259 or Kay Finegan at (410) 767-7939.

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

CTF  
Help Desk