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 <b>Department of Human Resources</b> 311 West Saratoga Street Baltimore MD 21201	<b>FIA INFORMATION MEMO</b>
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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT  
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS**

*Charles E. Hany for*  
**FROM: LYNDA FOX, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PROGRAMS AND  
LOCAL OPERATIONS**

**RE: QUARTERS EARNED WHILE ILLEGALLY RESIDING IN THE  
UNITED STATES**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM AND TEMPORARY  
CASH ASSISTANCE**

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

**SUMMARY**

This action transmittal provides guidance on determining eligible immigrant status when a lawful permanent resident requests to be credited with quarters of coverage that were earned by someone who was illegally in this country at the time the quarters were earned.

**POLICY**

For purposes of eligibility for social security benefits and for purposes of immigrant eligibility for Supplemental Security Income, the Social Security Administration (SSA) counts quarters worked while the person was living in this country. The quarters are counted regardless of the person's legal or illegal alien status at the time the work was performed and regardless of whether a valid social security number was used. The SSA does not try to determine immigration status of the immigrant, the immigrant's spouse or immigrant's parents at the time the work was performed.

In determining an immigrant's eligibility for food stamps and TCA, count quarters worked while the person was legally or illegally in this country except for quarters earned after December 31, 1996 in which the person received federal means-tested benefits.

Follow the directions in the State Verification Exchange System Users Manual for making the 40 qualifying quarter determination.

**INQUIRIES**

Please call Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939 if you have any questions.

cc: DHR Executive Staff  
FIA Executive Staff  
Constituent Services  
OIM Help Desk  
CIS Testing Facility