



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA INFORMATION MEMO

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

FROM: ROBERT EVERHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
Robert Everhard
DENESE MAKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CSA
Denesa Maker

RE: OUTREACH TO NONCITIZENS

PROGRAM AFFECTED: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH

Effective November 1, 1998 many noncitizens will become eligible for food stamps. (See Action Transmittal #99-10) Several governmental agencies, including DHR, have developed strategies to reach the population that will become eligible because of the change in the law. This Information Memo is to inform local departments about several planned initiatives.

The Food and Nutrition Service is working with the Social Security Administration to notify noncitizens of their potential eligibility. The Social Security Administration is sending letters to noncitizens whose Supplemental Security Income benefits were restored as a result of the immigrant provisions of the Balanced Budget Act. The Social Security Administration plans to send the notices on or about October 5-7. Copies of the letters are attached.

In DHR, the Maryland Office for New Americans (MONA) and FIA have been working together to develop strategies to reach potentially eligible noncitizens. We plan to send a flyer to individuals identified through CARES who were denied or terminated from the Food Stamp Program because they failed citizenship or immigrant requirements by September 30. Press releases through the Public Relations Office and to foreign language print and electronic media are also planned.

Local departments are often in a position to work with organizations in the community. We encourage you to develop your own outreach strategies in partnership with local organizations that serve the immigrant community.

INQUIRIES

If you have any questions please contact Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939.

cc: DHR Executive Staff FIA Executive Staff Constituent Services

IMPORTANT!

IMPORTANT: This is about the Food Stamp Program. Ask someone to translate this.

IMPORTANTE: Esto es acerca de el Food Stamp Program. (El Programa sobre el Cupón Estatal Canjeable por comida) Favor de pedir a alguien por la traducción.

MAHALAGANG PAUNAWA: ITO AY TUNGKOL SA TULONG SA PAGKUHA NG PAGKAIN PARA SA MGA NANGANGAILANGAN. HUMINGI NG TULONG SA KAMAGANAK O KAIBIGAN PARA IPALIWANAG ANG PAUNAWANG ITO SA WIKANG TAGALOG.

VEOMA VAZNO: OVO JE U VEZI FOOD STAMP PROGRAMA. PITAJTE PRIJATELJA ILI NEKOG OD RODBINE DA PREVEDE OVAJ TEKST.

Important: À propos du program de bons de nourriture. Demandez à un ami ou un parent de le traduire pour vous.

QUAN TRONG: Liên quan đến chương trình Food Stamp - Nhờ người nào dịch dùm.

ВНИМАНИЕ: Эта очень важная информация о программе помощи на продукты (Food Stamp Program). ПОПРОСИТЕ ВАШИХ ЗНАКОМЫХ ПЕРЕВЕСТИ ЭТОТ ДОКУМЕНТ.

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"ಪ್ರತಿಭಟನೆ" ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಿ ೪

注意: 這是一個關於食品券(Food Stamp Program)的項目, 請找您的親友翻譯一下。

अवश्यक : यह फूड स्टैम्पस (भोजन सम्बन्धी) योजना के बारे में है ।
अपने मित्र अथवा रिश्तेदार से, कि वह इस का तरजमा करे ।

یہ نوڈ سٹیمپس (خوراک متعلقہ) پروگرام کا سلسلے میں ہے ۔
اپنے دوست یا رشتے دار سے کہیں کہ وہ اس کا ترجمہ کرے ۔

후드 스탬프에 관한 중요한 정보입니다. 친구나 친척에게 번역을 부탁드립니다.

ہام : ہذا خاص بالاصال المواد الغذائية المبرمجة
اسألوا أحد أصدقائكم ليترجمها لكم

IMPORTANT FOOD STAMP INFORMATION

If you or a member of your household are a legal immigrant who was lawfully residing in the United States on August 22, 1996, and you are included in one of the following categories, you may be eligible for food stamp benefits starting **November 1, 1998**:

- Immigrants who were **at least 65 years old** on August 22, 1996,
- Immigrants who are **severely disabled**; and
- Immigrants who are **under 18 years old** (Many children are already receiving benefits paid for by the State. They will now be eligible for the federal benefits).

Refugees, persons granted asylum or cancellation of removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and Amerasians (all of whom are eligible for food stamps for 5 years after entering the U.S. or obtaining their status under current law) will have eligibility for their first 7 years under the new law.

Starting November 1, 1998 the following legal immigrants will also be eligible for food stamp benefits:

- Members of the **Hmong and other Highland Lao** tribes and their spouses, widows and dependent children, when the tribe helped the U.S. armed forces during the Vietnam War;
- **Certain Native Americans born in Canada or Mexico**, and entitled by treaty to reside in the U.S.

If you think you will now be now eligible for food stamps because of these changes in the law, you should apply for benefits at your local department of social services. Check the enclosed list for the office in your county or city. If you are uncertain which office to call, or you need additional general information, call: 1 (800) 332-6347, or if your first language is Spanish, call: 1 (800) 732-7850.

You may apply in October, but you will not get benefits until November.



NOVEMBER 1, 1998. FOOD STAMP CHANGES FOR NONCITIZENS

September 15, 1998

This notice is to inform you that immigrants who receive SSI payments may now be eligible for food stamps. Immigrants who do not receive SSI may also receive food stamps, but this notice does not review those rules.

Can non-citizens whose food stamps were cut off after August 1996 get them again?

Yes. You may be able to get food stamps. People who were cut off food stamps after August 1996 because they were not U.S. citizens may now be able to get them. People who were legally in the U.S. in August 1996 but not getting food stamps may now be eligible.

What happened to change things?

A new law made many persons who are not citizens, but who were legally in the United States on August 22, 1996, and who are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments, eligible for food stamps beginning November 1, 1998, if their household meets the other food stamp eligibility requirements.

What if I didn't get food stamps before August 22, 1996?

You can be eligible for food stamps even if you did not get them in the past.

What if I didn't arrive in the U.S. until after August 22, 1996?

Many immigrants who arrived after August 22, 1996 are not eligible for food stamps. However, some people (such as refugees, asylees, or Cuban/Haitian entrants) may be eligible.

What are some of the other special requirements for non-citizens to get food stamps? Does it make a difference whether I'm getting SSI because I'm elderly and poor, or because I'm blind or disabled?

If you are getting SSI and are not a citizen, you can get food stamps if you were legally living in the United States on August 22, 1996, and at least 65 years old then, or are either under age 18 now, or receiving disability payments.

How can I find out whether I'm eligible to get food stamps now?

To see if you are one of the people who were affected by this change in the law, contact your local food stamp office.

Where can I find the food stamp office?

In the telephone book, you should find the local food stamp office listed under "Food Stamps," "Human Resources," or "Social Services" in the State or local government pages.

When can I apply for food stamps?

If you think you will be eligible beginning November 1, 1998, you can apply for food stamps as early as October.

Can I apply for food stamps at the SSI office?

If everyone in your household is receiving or applying for SSI, you may apply for food stamps at the social security office.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Assistance
Administration

**CAMBIOS EN EL PROGRAMA DE CUPONES PARA
ALIMENTOS PARA LOS EXTRANJEROS.
1 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 1998**

La razón para esta noticia es que los inmigrantes quienes reciben Ingresos Sociales Suplementarios (Supplemental Security Income, SSI) ahora también podrían recibir los cupones para alimentos. Inmigrantes quienes no están recibiendo SSI posiblemente puedan recibir los cupones, pero esta noticia no tiene que ver con esas reglas.

¿Es posible que un extranjero cuyos cupones para alimentos fueron eliminados después de agosto de 1996 sea elegible nuevamente?

Sí. Usted podría ser elegible para participar en el programa de cupones para alimentos nuevamente. Las personas a quienes se le suspendieron los cupones para alimentos en agosto de 1996 porque no eran ciudadanos estadounidenses ahora podrían participar en el programa. Personas legalmente en los Estados Unidos a partir de agosto de 1996 pero que no participaban en el programa de cupones también podrían ser elegibles.

¿Como sucedió este cambio?

Una nueva ley permite que las personas que no eran ciudadanos, pero que estaban legalmente en los Estados Unidos el 22 de agosto de 1996, y que están recibiendo el Ingreso Social Suplementario (SSI), sean elegibles para recibir los cupones para alimentos a partir del 1 de noviembre de 1998 si su hogar reúne los otros requisitos de elegibilidad del programa.

¿Qué pasa si yo no estuve recibiendo los cupones antes del 22 de agosto de 1996?

Usted podría ser elegible para participar en el programa de cupones para alimentos aún que no los recibía entonces.

¿Qué pasa si no llegué a los Estados Unidos hasta después del 22 de agosto de 1996?

Muchos inmigrantes quienes llegaron después de esa fecha no podrán recibir los cupones. Sin embargo, algunas personas (tales como refugiados, asilados, o Cubanos/Haitianos) podrían ser elegibles.

¿Cuáles son algunos de los otros requisitos para que los extranjeros puedan solicitar cupones para alimentos? ¿Existe alguna diferencia entre las razones para recibir el SSI: anciano y pobre, ciego o incapacitado?

Si usted recibe el SSI y no es ciudadano, puede recibir cupones para alimentos si usted estaba viviendo legalmente en los Estados Unidos el 22 de agosto de 1996, y al menos tenía 65 años de edad para entonces, o tiene menos de 18 años ahora, o recibe compensación por incapacidad.

¿Cómo puedo saber si ahora soy elegible para recibir los cupones para alimentos?

Para saber si usted es una de las personas que se benefician con este cambio de ley, llame a su oficina local de cupones para alimentos.

¿Dónde puedo encontrar la oficina de cupones para alimentos?

En el directorio telefónico, la oficina de cupones para alimentos se encuentra bajo "Food Stamps", "Human Resources", o "Social Services" en las páginas que corresponden al gobierno estatal o local.

¿Cuándo puedo solicitar los cupones para alimentos?

Si piensa que usted será elegible a partir del 1 de noviembre de 1998, usted puede solicitar cupones para alimentos tan temprano como el mes de octubre.

¿Puedo solicitar cupones para alimentos en la oficina de SSI?

Si todos en su hogar están recibiendo o solicitando el SSI, usted puede solicitar los cupones para alimentos en la oficina de seguro social.