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**State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker**

TO: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators

FROM: Rich Albertoni, FoodShare Director
Bureau of Enrollment Policy & Systems
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability

BEPS/DFS OPERATIONS MEMO					
No: 11-32					
DATE: 06/30/2011					
FS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>	BC+	<input type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>
BC+ Basic	<input type="checkbox"/>	BC+ CORE	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>
CF	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>
RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> *
				EP	

SUBJECT: State Option FoodShare Program (SOFSP)

CROSS REFERENCE: FoodShare Handbook [3.12.1.6](#) and [3.12.1.1](#)
Sections 402 and 403 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA).

EFFECTIVE DATE: New Applications July 1, 2011
Ongoing recipients August 1, 2011

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this operations memo is to announce the end of the Wisconsin State Option FoodShare Program (SOFSP).

BACKGROUND:

Effective August 1, 1998, Wisconsin implemented the State Option FoodShare Program to issue benefits to qualifying immigrants who were made ineligible for FoodShare (FS) benefits under sections 402 and 403 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA). Federal SNAP (FoodShare) policy requires that a person be a citizen or qualifying immigrant in order to receive benefits, but allowed states the option to provide state-funded benefits to certain legal immigrants who did not meet the Federal requirement.

The SOFSP eligibility determination in CARES is transparent to the member and to the IM worker. The Notice of Decision does not mention eligibility for state or federal benefits. Because of this, the household is not aware that some or all members are eligible under the SOFSP.

POLICY CHANGE:

With the passage of the 2011-13 Wisconsin State budget the State funded SOFSP program is ending effective July 1, 2011.

Federally eligible members that live with a previously eligible SOFSP member will remain eligible for Federal benefits. There is no change to the Federal eligibility

New Applications

CARES changes will be made the night of June 30, 2011 so that any household member on an application processed on or after July 1, 2011 who is ineligible for Federal FS will no longer be tested for eligibility for the SOFSP from July 1, 2011 forward.

An application submitted in June and processed before June 30th will be tested for SOFSP benefits under the current policy for June and July. Any members determined eligible under SOFSP will have their eligibility re-determined during the mass change in July and their SOFSP benefits will be terminated effective August 1st

An application taken in June and processed on or after July 1 will be tested for SOFSP benefits under the current policy for June but will not be tested for the benefit for July. Members will have to meet the Federal requirements to remain eligible from July forward.

Example

A household of 4 applies on June 20, 2011 and consists of mom, dad and 2 children. Dad is ineligible for Federal FS due to his immigration status but meets the requirements for SOFSP. If the application is processed prior to July 1st, Dad will be eligible for SOFSP benefits in June and July but will not be eligible effective August 1. The household will receive FS benefits for a group of 4 for June and July, and for a group of 3 for August. Dad will be removed from the benefit August 1st because he does not meet Federal citizenship requirements.

If the application is processed on or after July 1st, Dad will be eligible for the SOFSP benefit in June. His eligibility would be denied for July forward. The household will receive FS benefits for a group of 4 for June and for a group of 3 from July forward.

Ongoing Cases

A mass change will run on July 9, 2011 to re-determine ongoing benefits for all ongoing members receiving benefits under the SOFSP. If the member does not meet the Federal FS requirements his or her FS benefits will be terminated effective August 1, 2011.

Since SOFSP members are unaware that they are receiving the State Option benefit, a letter will be sent the week of July 4, 2011 to households containing a SOFSP member informing them of the end of the program and identifying the potential ineligible member(s) (a copy of the mailer is attached). A listing of all potential ineligible members will also be sent to the agencies prior to the release of the mailer.

The mass change that occurs on July 9th will generate a Notice of Decision notifying each household with a SOFSP member who does not meet Federal citizenship FoodShare requirements of the member's eligibility termination and inform the household of the new benefit amount.

Example:

An ongoing household of 4 is receiving FS benefits. The household consists of mom, dad and 2 children. Dad is ineligible for Federal FS but meets the requirements for SOFSP. The rest of the household members meet the federal requirements for FS so the household is receiving an allotment for a group of 4. Effective August 1 dad will be removed from the group and they will receive FS for a group of 3. The household will receive a Notice of Decision dated July 11, 2011 informing them that dad no longer meets citizenship requirements and the amount of their new allotment effective August 1st.

NOTE:

To ensure correct processing of ineligible immigrants (former SOFSP members) enter accurate information on the Alien/Refugee Information page in CWW to ensure the correct AG size, and correct deeming of income/expenses of the ineligible members. The SOFSP members that do not meet federal guidelines will be considered prorated deemers. See FSHB 4.7.5.

CARES:

CARES updates implementing the policy change will be made June 30, 2011, effecting new applications July 1, 2011.

A mass change will be done on July 9, 2011 to re-determine eligibility for ongoing SOFSP individuals. Any individual found ineligible under the Federal rules will have their FS benefits terminated August 1, 2011.

CONTACTS:

BEPS CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center

*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training, BC+ Core – BadgerCare Plus Core, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

DHS/DHCAA/BEPS/