

June 8, 2006

SUBJECT: Extension of Food Stamp Income Exclusion

TO: All Regional Program Directors  
Food Stamp Program

The FY 2005 Appropriations Bill for the Department of Agriculture included a provision which excluded from consideration as income in the Food Stamp Program additional pay received by military personnel as a result of deployment to a combat zone. This provision has been extended. The precise language is set forth below.

*Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 5(d) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, any additional payment received under chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, by a member of the United States Armed Forces deployed to a designated combat zone shall be excluded from household income for the duration of the member's deployment if the additional pay is the result of deployment to or while serving in a combat zone, and it was not received immediately prior to serving in the combat zone.

We issued an implementation memorandum on January 14, 2005, which provided guidance on the income exclusion. The memorandum with the subject, "The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Public Law 108-447 Food Stamp Household Income Exclusion Provision," is posted on the Partner Website.

The FY 2006 Appropriations Bill included the above cited language from the FY 2005 Appropriations Bill. The 2007 President's budget request also contains the provision and the 2007 House Appropriations committee report keeps the exclusion. Therefore, State agencies should continue to exclude from food stamp income additional pay received by military personnel as a result of deployment to a combat zone using the guidance provided in the January 14, 2005, implementation memorandum.

/s/

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