Update 2012-10: CalFresh
Restoration of Eligibility and Benefits for CalFresh

Background
Assembly Bill (AB) 959 requires restoration of CalWORKs (CW) and Public Assistance CalFresh (PACF) benefits when a household submits a completed QR 7 within the month following the discontinuance without the need for a new application or an interview.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) already approved the restoration of eligibility and benefits to discontinued Non-Assistance CalFresh (NACF) households effective October 1, 2010. The new law extends this same opportunity to PACF recipients.

Changes
When a household submits a complete QR 7 within the month following the discontinuance for an incomplete QR 7 or for nonsubmission of a QR 7, benefits must be restored to the household without requiring a new application or an intake interview, provided all other eligibility criteria are met. Eligibility and benefits must be determined based on the complete submitted QR 7 and prorated from the date the complete QR 7 is provided.

[Refer to “Restoration of Aid Waiver,” page 25-19]

Good Cause
Current good cause rules for failure to submit a complete and timely QR 7 continue to apply. If the household is determined to have good cause for not submitting a complete and timely QR 7, the discontinuance must be rescinded and benefits restored back to the first of the month following the discontinuance.

[Refer to “Discontinued Households,” page 25-18] for more information about good cause determination.
**QR Cycle/Certification Period**
The current QR cycle and certification period must be retained for households that have had their eligibility restored under this policy.

**Benefit Decreases**
If the information reported on the complete QR 7 results in a decrease in benefits from the amount issued in the month prior to their QR 7 discontinuance, the county must restore benefits at the decreased level. Restoring benefits at a decreased level is not considered a mid-quarter decrease, as the QR cycle was disrupted when benefits were terminated due to the break in aid.

**Transitional CalFresh**
Regular CalFresh benefits will be restored effective the first of the following month, providing the county issues a timely NOA prior to the termination of Transitional CalFresh (TCF) benefits. Therefore, if there is no time to send the termination NOA (i.e., DFA 1239) within the 10 day time frame, TCF benefits must be continued.

**Example:**
A PACF household is terminated on March 31 for failure to submit a complete QR 7 and begins receiving TCF in April. The household submits a complete QR 7 on April 7 and continues to receive TCF for April. The county sends a timely NOA terminating the TCF effective April 30. Regular CalFresh benefits are restored effective May 1.

**Example:**
In the same scenario as above, a PACF household is terminated on March 31 for failure to submit a complete QR 7 and begins receiving TCF in April. The household submits a complete QR 7 on April 23. The TCF has already been issued for April and it is too late to send a timely NOA to stop the TCF allotment for May. The County must send a timely NOA terminating the TCF effective May 31. Regular CalFresh benefits are restored effective June 1.

**Implementation**
As of August 1, cases discontinued in July for non-receipt of a complete QR 7 must be considered under this new policy.

**Documentation**
The eligibility determination for approval or denial of the restoration of aid must be clearly documented in the Maintain Case Comments window of CalWIN.
Data Systems

CalWIN is not programmed to apply the restoration of aid for CW and PACF cases; therefore, a BEnDS that provides a temporary workaround for the restoration of CW and PACF will be issued shortly.

Note: The restoration of aid for NACF was already programmed in CalWIN effective July 11, 2011. The detailed instructions on how to restore benefits are located on the SSA Intranet under “Release Notes Version 27.”

Forms

The revised NA 960X and NA 960Y notices are available in CalWIN. The “CalFresh Notice of Approval/Denial/Termination Transitional Benefits” (DFA 1239) will be revised and will be available as soon as the State provides the revision.

Other Programs

The change in this Update applies to the CalWORKs and CalFresh Programs. A CalWORKs Update will be released separately.

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