

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM Desk Aid for:

Summer Youth Employment Opportunities & YouthBuild Programs and Census Pay

The recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) increased funding for the Summer Youth Employment Opportunities and raised the age of eligibility to a maximum of 24 years old. As a result, an increased number of individuals, including those who are 19 years of age and older, may be participating in this summer program.

Summer Youth Employment Opportunities

- Food Stamp Program Guide (FSPG) section 63-222.3 states that earnings of individuals who are participating in on-the-job training programs under Section 204(b) (1)(C) or Section 264(c) (1) (A) of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) **must be counted as earned income**.
- FSPG section 63-225.5 states that allowances, earnings and payments to individuals in programs specified under the WIA will be excluded, but earnings of individuals participating in on-the-job training programs under WIA **will be counted as earned income**. In addition, earnings of dependent household members under 19 years of age and under the parental control of an adult household member, participating in on-the-job training under WIA is excluded.

Action Needed:

- If the participant is 19 year of age or older, determine if he/she is participating in on-the-job training and count **only** this portion of the payment as earned income. The portion earmarked as stipend or benefit will be excluded.
- If the participant is under 19, exclude the entire income.

NOTE: The Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOL/ETA) has clarified that the focus of the Summer Youth Employment Opportunities is on work experience and not on-the-job training.

YouthBuild Programs

YouthBuild trainees are provided with income/stipend support while in the training program, but this is not an on-the-job activity. Therefore, as explained in the [FSPG Special Notice 07-06](#), **income from the YouthBuild program is exempt**.

Census Pay

It is expected that approximately 17,000 full-time and part-time workers will be hired as census takers in California beginning April 1, 2009. Most will be working from four to ten weeks. Income received by a food stamp household member from temporary employment related to the 2010 Census **is treated as earned income** (FSPG [section 63-222.1](#)) and is subject to the allowable earned income deductions.

REMINDER: Under Quarterly Reporting (QR), only the income that can be reasonably anticipated may be counted when calculating benefits for the upcoming quarter. Therefore, if census income cannot be reasonably anticipated by a food stamp recipient, it will not be used in the household's benefit calculation as explained in FSPG [section 63-281](#). In addition, per FSPG [section 63-283](#), any income received mid-quarter, does not need to be reported until the next QR7 and may not affect the food stamp benefits if it is not expected to continue.