



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: #02-16

Effective Date: October 1, 2001

Issuance Date: September 12, 2001

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

**FROM: CHARLES E. HENRY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
DENESE MAKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CSA
JOSEPH E. DAVIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DHMH/00E**

RE: EXCLUSION OF VEHICLES

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA),
TRANSITIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND HOUSING
ASSISTANCE (TEMHA), PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO
ADULTS (PAA), FOOD STAMPS (FS) AND MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE (MA)**

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS

SUMMARY

The President signed Public Law 106-387 on October 28, 2000. This law includes several provisions affecting the Food Stamp Program. One of these provisions allows States to substitute their Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) vehicle rules for the food stamp vehicle rules where doing so results in a lower attribution of resources to food stamp households. Maryland has changed the State's TCA, TEMHA, PAA and MA vehicle rules to exclude all vehicles. Because of PL 106-387, the new rules also apply to the Food Stamp Program.

NEW POLICY FOR CASH AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND FOOD STAMPS:

Local departments no longer need to:

- Complete up-front MVA screens at application and recertification to verify ownership of a vehicle as an asset for an applicant or recipient; or
- Consider the use of a vehicle to determine the exclusion; or
- Apply either the fair market test or the equity test; or
- Count any vehicles towards resources, regardless of their use or their value.

There is no limit to the **number or type of vehicles** local departments exclude for members of TCA, TEMHA, PAA, FS or MA households.

ACTION REQUIRED

- **Exclude all vehicles** for members of TCA, PAA, FS and MA households, at application and the first recertification on and after October 1, 2001.
- The exclusion of vehicles allows conformity for the TCA, TEMHA, PAA, FS and MA programs and helps ensure program integrity for local department customers statewide.

Reminder: Vehicle and insurance payments for excluded vehicles are still considered when exploring the possibility of deficit budget for a household.

CARES PROCEDURES FOR EXCLUSION OF VEHICLES

Although vehicles are excluded for TCA, TEMHA, PAA, FS, and MA and are not entered on CARES asset screens, case managers should include information about vehicles owned by household members for work program purposes on NARR screens.

ACTION DUE

This policy is effective October 1, 2001 for new applications taken and for recertifications completed on or after this date for the TCA, TEMHA, PAA, FS and MA programs.

INQUIRIES

Please direct Food Stamp policy questions to Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939; TCA policy questions to Edna McAbier at 410-767-8805, TEMHA and PAA policy questions to Rick McClendon at 410-767-8513, Medical Assistance policy questions to Cynthia Davis at 410-767-7495 and CARES questions to Kelly Brown at 410-238-1297.

cc: DHR Executive Staff
DHMH Executive Staff
FIA Management Staff
DHMH Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk
RESI