

MANUAL MATERIAL TRANSMITTED					
MANUAL: INCOME MAINTENANCE			CHANGE NUMBER: 284		
DELETE			INSERT OR CHANGE		
PAGES	CHAPTER	DATED	PAGES	CHAPTER	DATED
5 - 6	18	5/98	5	18	5/98
			6	18	4/03
			13	18	5/98
14	18	11/98	14	18	4/03
15 - 16	18	10/02	15 - 16	18	4/03
17 - 24	18	11/98	17 - 23	18	4/03
DATE: APRIL 1, 2003 TO: ALL INCOME MAINTENANCE MANUAL HOLDERS					

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-171) restores food stamp eligibility to a legal immigrant who has lived in the United States as a qualified alien for a period of five years or longer without meeting the 40 quarter qualification. This policy is effective on April 1, 2003.

Applications to restore food stamps to these immigrants can be taken beginning March 1, 2003 and processed no later than March 31, 2003 so that eligible households receive a full month's benefit beginning on April 1, 2003. All food stamp eligibility requirements are to be met. Applications for households in which some of the members are eligible prior to that time must have applications processed according to regular processing time frames. Counties may then simply add the members who become eligible on April 1, 2003.

This change also adds victims of severe form of trafficking who have been certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services making them eligible for benefits and services in Food Stamps, WV WORKS, and Medicaid to the same extent as refugees, as long as all eligibility criteria has been met.

Should you have any questions feel free to contact Cona Chataman of the Policy Unit.

