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 | INFORMATIONAL LETTER |  
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TRANSMITTAL: 95 INF-22

TO: Commissioners of  
 Social Services

DIVISION: Economic  
 Security

DATE: June 28, 1995

SUBJECT: FS: Students on Meal Programs and Eligibility of  
 Students in Campus Housing

SUGGESTED

DISTRIBUTION: FS Directors, IM Directors, Staff Development  
 Coordinators, CAP Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: FS Representative at 1-800 343 8859, ext. 4-9225

ATTACHMENTS: None

FILING REFERENCES

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
		387.1(ii)		FSSB V-B-4.1	

Recently, questions have been received about the eligibility of students in campus housing who are on meal plans which do not provide all the meals a student will have in a month. These meal plans either limit the number of meals, or are a debit card expenditure, which creates the potential for an uncertain number of meals to be consumed in the meal plan.

In the past, students who were enrolled in meal plans generally received two or more meals per day. Such students were considered ineligible for food stamps because they were residents of an institution. Residents of institutions are those individuals who are provided the majority of their meals (over 50% of three meals daily) as part of the institution's normal service.

In recent years, colleges have started offering students living in campus housing options to participate in meal plans which provide less than three meals a day. A student who participates in a plan providing less than the majority of the student's monthly meals is not considered a resident of an institution. If the student also meets the eligible student criteria (FSSB V-B-4.1) and is otherwise eligible, the student is allowed to receive food stamps.

In situations where the number of meals to be consumed by the student is unclear due to the optional nature of the meal plan, the applicant must state the number of meals that are anticipated to be consumed on and off the meal plan. If the majority of meals stated are off the plan for the month, the student may be considered for participation on food stamps. In these cases, the student/food stamp recipient should be reminded of the obligation to report changes to the agency, particularly with regard to changes in the the number of meals to be consumed on the plan.

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John C. Fredericks  
Division of Economic Security