

# Food Stamp Eligibility

## Set For SSI Recipients

WASHINGTON, The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) last week announced changes in food stamp program regulations extending eligibility of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients, and retaining procedures for exchanging old series stamps for the new series.

The changes bring USDA regulations into line with recent amendments extending the provisions of Public Law 93-233 through June 30, 1977. Under this legislation, which must be extended annually, SSI recipients are not eligible for food stamps if they live in a state that "cashes out" their food stamp benefits. Food stamp benefits are "cashed out" by increasing SSI payments to include the food stamp bonus the recipients would otherwise receive. All other SSI recipients are eligible without regard to income or household resources.

Massachusetts is the only remaining state authorized by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (DHEW) to "cash out" food stamp benefits to SSI recipients. However, federal legislation will be amended in the near future to bring them into line with DHEW's final determination.

Previously, New York and Nevada had also been eligible to "cash out" food stamp benefits, but DHEW recently determined that these states were no longer qualified. This means SSI recipients in these states became eligible to receive food stamps on July 1, 1976, when the DHEW decision took effect.

To assist SSI recipients in the states making the transition to the Food Stamp Program, today's amendments waive certain food stamp certification procedures. State a-

gencies will be given the option to waive the interview requirement for certain households containing SSI recipients, and use an abbreviated application form.

In addition to the regulation changes concerning SSI eligibility, today's amendments also extend indefinitely procedures for exchanging old series food stamps (in 50-cent, 2-dollar, and 5-dollar denominations) for new series (1-dollar, 5-dollar, and 10-dollar) stamps.

When the new stamp series was introduced in March 1975, USDA anticipated that all exchanges could be completed by June 30, 1976. However, since requests for exchanges are still being received, the June 30 deadline is being removed and exchange procedures left in effect for as long as they are needed.

These amended regulations are scheduled to appear as a final rulemaking in the Federal Register of August 17, 1976. The amendments are being issued in final form because of the need for speedy implementation of all provisions. However, public comments will be considered, and revisions in the amendments made where necessary and appropriate.

Written comments, suggestions or objections should be submitted to Mrs. Nancy M. Snyder, Director, Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, no later than September 16, 1976.



Mrs. Mary Reich, center, was honored on her 90th birthday, Wednesday, August 18. Her son Willie Reich, left, of 520 Sparrow Street gave a party. His uncle, Luther Stratford, right, of Columbus, Ohio, celebrated this 83rd birthday at the party. Guests attending the party

included the Rev. Paul Drumond, his children. Mrs. Mary Kiser of Winston-Salem, a lifelong 94-year-old friend of Mrs. Reich, also attended. She was accompanied by two nieces.

## USDA Amends Breakfast Program

WASHINGTON, Residential child care institutions are now eligible for participation in the School Breakfast Program under regulations announced today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The eligible institutions are public or licensed nonprofit private residential child care centers, such as homes for the mentally retarded, orphan-

ages, temporary shelters for abused and runaway children, juvenile detention centers, and others. Previously, only public or nonprofit private schools were eligible.

The amendments announced today also make it possible for state agencies, other than state educational agencies, to administer the breakfast program in residential child care

institutions. The changes were the result of child nutrition legislation passed last October (P.L. 94-105). Proposed amendments were published in the Federal Register of February 17, and the public was invited to comment. All comments received were considered and several regulations were changed in light of these comments.

## Happiness Through Health

# Encephalitis Claims 25 Lives

By Otto McClarrin

State Health Department officials confirmed in July that the season's first two cases of deadly St. Louis encephalitis were found in Mississippi and an additional seven more suspected cases were under investigation.

The disease, transmitted from birds to humans by mosquitoes, claimed 25 lives during a summer-long epidemic in Mississippi last year.

Last year's outbreak in various sections of the country was the worst on record, and the 95 deaths and thousands of cases caused considerable panic. The disease is particularly nasty because its victims can go into convulsions or a coma, and as many as 10 percent of those who recover suffer permanent disability, ranging from brain damage to paralysis.

So, today, Mississippi is spraying the worst of its mosquito breeding areas. Illinois is trapping birds and testing their blood. And health officials in a number of states are crawling through sewers or wading into stagnant ponds to capture female mosquitoes in their breeding grounds.

1900 Cases Last Year - All of this activity is something new in the annals of public health. For the first time there is a concerted effort to try to prevent another outbreak of the vicious mosquito-transmitted disease. St. Louis encephalitis always arrives without warning, leaves a trail of misery, and then disappears for a number of

years. Last year the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recorded more than 1,900 cases in about 20 communities around the country. Because the disease often mimics the symptoms of other illnesses, it's estimated that there may actually have been 200 or 300 times that number of cases. The deaths were concentrated in Illinois, Mississippi, Indiana and Ohio.

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### Hearing Set

### For Proposed

### Shopping Centers

The Charlotte City Council and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing proposed shopping centers be located at the intersection of Eastway Dr. and N. Tryon St. and near the intersection of Tyvola Rd. E. and Interstate 77.

The hearing will be held Monday, August 30 at 10 in the Council Chamber a Hall, 600 East Trade St.

Under new procedures published for Conditional Permits, persons wishing to speak must REGISTER WRITING with the Office of the City Clerk at City prior to the opening of hearing. Such registration shall state: a) The name and address; b) name of any representative who will appear on the person's behalf; c) the pet on which the person desires to be heard; d) whether person opposes or favors petition; and e) if the person has no representative, whether the person desires cross-examine adverse witnesses.

Persons with questions about the new hearing procedures should contact the office of the City Attorney, City Hall, 374-2254.



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