



Department of
Job and Family Services

John R. Kasich, Governor
Cynthia C. Dungey, Director

Family Assistance Letter #132
OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE
February 21, 2014

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Kara B. Wentz, Deputy Director
Office of Family Assistance

SUBJECT: Change in Food Assistance Issuance Schedule

Background

Currently all recurring food assistance benefits are issued on a schedule determined by the individual county agencies between the first and the tenth of each month. There are currently no statewide requirements for how a county agency chooses its issuance date(s): Some counties utilize all ten days; others utilize five; and others issue all food assistance benefits on a single day.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has consistently heard from stakeholders that the issuance of food assistance benefits over a longer period would enhance services to both recipients and non-recipients. Specifically, it would enable grocers to staff their stores evenly throughout the month and not just for the increased demand over the first ten days and improve the variety of foods available.

Change in Policy

Effective February 28, 2014, there will be a new 20-day issuance schedule for the following assistance groups:

1. new assistance groups;
2. assistance groups that experience at least a one day break in food assistance eligibility due to a failure to take a required action; and
3. assistance groups that move from one project area to another.

All other assistance groups will continue to receive food assistance on their current issuance schedule until they experience any of the criteria described above. This will ensure that no current recipients are adversely affected by this change, but will allow a consistent transition to the new issuance schedule. Although the new schedule is effective February 28, 2014 newly identified assistance groups meeting the above criteria will not realize the new schedule until April 2014.

A set of frequently asked questions and a table of the new issuance dates are included with this letter. Questions can be sent to Program Policy Services either by email at TANF-FSTA@jfs.ohio.gov or by calling 1-866-886-3537 (option 6).

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