



Department of  
Job and Family Services

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Michael B. Colbert, Director

**OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE LETTER #121**  
**OFFICE OF FISCAL & MONITORING SERVICES**  
February 6, 2013

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Trudie J. Bormann, Deputy Director  
Office of Family Assistance

Eric Mency, Chief Fiscal Officer  
Office of Fiscal & Monitoring Services

SUBJECT: **Food Assistance Intentional Program Violation Matching Requirement**

This letter is to inform county agencies of a recent federal regulation change and how that change will impact the utilization of the electronic disqualified recipient system (eDRS) to verify intentional program violations (IPV) for the food assistance program.

**Background**

An IPV established in another state is a valid disqualification in Ohio. eDRS is a national database of individuals who currently have or have previously had a food assistance program disqualification. CRIS-E currently maintains eDRS matches on screen DEDRS. DEDRS is updated on the third and twelfth of each month unless those dates fall on a holiday or weekend, then it is updated the next business day.

**Federal Law Change:**

Changes to 7 CFR 273.16(i)(4) require county agencies to screen individuals against eDRS prior to the issuance of food assistance. All applicants or new household members must be matched against eDRS effective **Wednesday, February 13, 2013**.

**New County Agency Procedure**

In order to be compliant with federal law, county agencies will need to screen all applicants and new household members with the DEDRS screen immediately upon receipt of an application. Also, all existing recipients will need to be screened against DEDRS at recertification. The recertification requirement is only for 12 months (February 13, 2013 to February 13, 2014), since after that time most assistance groups would have had a recertification where the match would have been conducted. eDRS matches can be accessed by placing DEDRS in the NEXT TRAN

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field and the individual's social security number in the PARMS field. The originating state's contact information is provided on the DEDRS screen.

Information in eDRS is not considered verified on receipt. If there is a match, the county agency must contact the originating state and allow the state twenty days to return the verification of the disqualification. If the verification is not received within twenty days, the county agency needs to notify its assigned Fraud Control Specialist for additional follow-up.

**Note: This new requirement does not change the process for expedited benefits. The only required verification for an expedited case is still only identity. County agencies must continue to process expedited benefits timely in accordance with rule 5101:4-6-09 of the Administrative Code; however, for ongoing benefits the eDRS match must be conducted prior to the eligibility determination.**

In the event an originating state fails to provide documentation within the twenty day timeframe, the county agency must determine eligibility if otherwise eligible. If the originating state later verifies the eDRS match, the county agency will be required to apply the food assistance program disqualification, provide the assistance group with a notice of adverse action and establish an overpayment.

Questions related to IPV's and contacts with other states should be referred to your assigned Fraud Control Specialist. Policy related questions should be directed to the TANF-FSTA e-mailbox or by calling 1-866-886-3537 (option 6).

c: Michael Colbert, Director  
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