

Bob Taft
Governor



Tom Hayes
Director

30 East Broad Street • Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.state.oh.us/odjfs

OFFICE OF FAMILY STABILITY LETTER #17

January 16, 2004

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Jeanne Carroll, Deputy Director
Office of Family Stability

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE SYSTEMATIC ALIEN VERIFICATION FOR ENTITLEMENTS (SAVE) PROGRAM

The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 was passed by Congress to establish a system for verifying the immigration status of non-citizen applicants for, or recipients of, certain types of federally funded benefits. In 1987, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) established the SAVE program, an intergovernmental information-sharing initiative designed to aid benefit providers in verifying an applicant's immigration status to carry out the IRCA requirement.

The INS developed, and made accessible to federal, state and local government agencies, an efficient, secure, and cost effective system for verification, the Alien Status Verification Index (ASVI). Currently under the ASVI (Touch-Tone Telephone) system, there are two methods of verifying alien registration status: primary verification is an automated process used to provide alien verification within seconds of inquiry and secondary verification when the automated process is unable to provide information and under other specified circumstances.

Because of security safeguards and technological enhancements, the INS, now known as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can no longer support the current access method of the Touch - Tone telephone system. A new system, the Automated Status Verification System (ASVS), a web-enabled, server-based Customer Processing System (CPS) has been developed to provide faster and better service.

Agency access to the system will become effective March 1, 2004 for the OWF, PRC, RCA, Medicaid, and Food Stamp programs. Changes to rule 5101:1-1-50 "Cash Assistance: Use of the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program" (CCN 5189) and rule 5101:4-7-14 "Food Stamps: Use of the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program" (CCN 5188) have been through the clearance process. Information on the Medicaid rule addressing the SAVE program will be forthcoming from the Office of Ohio Health Plans.

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Each county will need to provide the name of an individual(s) who will serve as the county's Super User. We suggest that the county assign this role (Super User) to the agency's Security Coordinator. The Super User will set up the agency supervisors who will set up the general users who are the ones who actually access the system to verify non-citizen status of applicants and recipients of the OWF, PRC, RCA, Medicaid and Food Stamp programs.

The ODJFS MIS - Bureau of Information Systems Support - Information Security Unit will be the technical Super User(s) for the State. The Chief Information Security Officer at ODJFS is working with the contractor of this service, Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) to set up each county. Counties should e-mail names and contact information to the Information Security Unit at infosec@odjfs.state.oh.us by **January 30, 2004**. Counties who have not provided this information will not be able to access the web-based SAVE system. Access to the Touch-Tone Telephone system will only be provided for a limited amount of time. We will advise you via a CRIS-E view flash bulletin prior to the date that the Touch-Tone Telephone system will no longer be available.

TRAINING

Training shall be provided to the counties through the CSC contractor. This training will be available continuously on the CSC website, the same screen where actual queries will be completed. When the system becomes ready for county access, CSC will provide the web address.

JC: dr

c:	Tom Hayes	Bob Blair	CCAO
	China Widener	Deputy Directors	OFS Staff
	Melissa DeLisio	OJFSDA	MIS