
Michigan League for Human Services



DATE: March 3, 2004

TO: League Friends and Colleagues

FROM: Ann Marston, President and CEO

SUBJECT: Additional Food Stamp Assistance Available

As a step in addressing Michigan's high unemployment rate, the Granholm Administration recently applied for and was granted a federal waiver that allows unemployed childless adults to receive Food Assistance (formerly known as Food Stamps) beyond three months. Up until now, childless adults in Michigan have been prohibited from receiving Food Assistance for more than three months during a three-year period unless they were employed or participating in a qualifying work activity.

As of March 1, recipients are now allowed to continue receiving Food Assistance for up to twelve months as long as they meet other eligibility conditions. The Michigan League for Human Services welcomes the increased availability of Food Assistance to individuals. The new program not only strengthens an important safety net for unemployed adults, but will relieve the pressure on emergency service providers in local communities.

It is very important to increase public awareness of the change. We urge agencies and organizations to identify and inform people who are potentially affected by the new policy. To assist with this, we have enclosed a fact sheet explaining this important policy development. (The fact sheet is also available on our website at <http://www.milhs.org>). Additional information is also available by calling the Center for Civil Justice's Michigan Food Stamp Hotline at 1-800-481-4989.

Encl.

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