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 | INFORMATIONAL LETTER |  
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TRANSMITTAL: 91 INF-6

TO: Commissioners of  
 Social Services

DIVISION: Income  
 Maintenance

DATE: January 17, 1991

SUBJECT: Food Stamps: Treatment of Federal Pension Income

SUGGESTED

DISTRIBUTION: Food Stamp Directors  
 Income Maintenance Directors  
 Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: County Food Stamp Representative at 1-800-342-3715,  
 extension 4-9225

ATTACHMENTS: None

FILING REFERENCES

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
			387.10	FSSB XII-C-1	

This release is to remind local districts that the gross federal retirement pension income must be budgeted in determining food stamp eligibility and allotments.

A recent audit found that the amount shown on the pension check is often used when budgeting food stamps. The federal retirement pension check amount is the net after various deductions and federal tax withholding. The gross income amount must be utilized in determining both food stamp eligibility and benefit level. Workers must verify the gross amount of pension benefits.

The audit also found that this type of income is frequently miscoded in WMS. The audit specifically identified examples where the worker entered federal retirement pension income as a Social Security retirement income by using code 44 rather than 39. Although the classification does not affect the calculation of the food coupon allotment, it will cause the case to be erroneously mass-rebudgeted for COLA increases in JAN MRB/A's and could affect the ability to perform an accurate computer match against federal retirement income records.

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Oscar R. Best, Jr.  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Income Maintenance