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## General Information Memorandum

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**ISD-GI 15-61**

**TO:** ISD Employees

**FROM:**  Marilyn Martinez, Director, Income Support Division

**RE:** SNAP Requirements for Individuals in Refugee Training Programs

**DATE:** October 9, 2015

This memorandum is to provide guidance regarding SNAP requirements for refugees and other eligible individuals enrolled in refugee training programs approved, funded, or operated by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Other eligible individuals are defined in 45 CFR 400.43 and Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) State Letter No. 00-17 and include asylees, Cuban and Haitian Entrants, certain Amerasians from Vietnam, victims of trafficking who receive certification from ORR, and Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrants. Please refer to 8.119.410.8 NMAC for specific information regarding eligible immigrant status types. The term “refugee” is used in this GI for convenience and is intended to encompass all such persons who are eligible to participate in refugee resettlement program services.

Employment training programs approved, funded, or operated by ORR are federally recognized training programs. In accordance with section 6(d)(2)(C) and 6(o)(3)(D) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, participants in these programs at least half time are exempt from Food Stamp Program work requirements and time limits.

Customers identified as Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) who are participating in a recognized refugee training program at least half time are exempt from the ABAWD time limit. Participants are not exempt due to their refugee status but because of their participation in a recognized training program. Participants must provide verification of the ORR approved training program in which they are participating. Current refugee training programs are provided by Lutheran Family Services and Catholic Charities. A statement, provided by either of these agencies, that includes the customer’s name, that he or she is participating in a recognized refugee training program, the name of the training program, and the hours of participation may be accepted as verification that the customer is enrolled in an approved refugee training program.

Offices should ensure that all customers identified as refugees are provided with a referral to Lutheran Family Services as described in GI 15-57. Refugee customers identified as ABAWD

and who are not currently participating in a recognized refugee training program should be provided with a referral to Lutheran Family Services. Unless otherwise mandatory, a customer may choose not to participate in refugee services. If the customer chooses not to participate in a refugee training program he or she is required to comply with ABAWD requirements.

If you have questions regarding the refugee resettlement program or this GI please contact Kresta Opperman at (505)827-7213 or by email at [kresta.opperman@state.nm.us](mailto:kresta.opperman@state.nm.us).