
**COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK
GRANT PROGRAM**

U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Community Services
Division of State Assistance
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

Information Memorandum

Transmittal No. 30

Date September 30, 1998

TO: STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

SUBJECT: Guidance on the Interpretation of "Federal Public
Benefit" Under the Personal Responsibility and
Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996
(PRWORA), P.L. 104-193.

RELATED

REFERENCES: The Community Services Block Grant, P.L. 97-35, of
the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981,
Title VI, Subtitle B, as amended. The Personal
Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation
Act of 1996 (PRWORA), Public Law 104-193, dated
August 22, 1996 and Federal Register Notice,
(63 FR 41658).

The PRWORA Act of 1996, restricts access to
Federal public benefits to qualified aliens. The
statute defines a "qualified alien" as: (1) an
alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence
under the Immigration and Nationality Act (the
"Act:"); (2) an alien granted asylum under section
208 of the Act; (3) a refugee admitted to the
United States under section 207 of the Act; (4) an
alien paroled into the United States under section
212(d)(5) of the Act for a period of at least one
year; (5) an alien whose deportation is being
withheld under section 243(h) of the Act as in
effect prior to April 1, 1997, or whose removal is
being withheld under section 241 (b)(3) of the
Act; (6) an alien granted conditional entry under
section 203 (a)(7) of the Act as in effects prior
to April 1., 1980; (7) an alien who is a Cuban or
a Haitian entrant as defined in section 501(e) of
the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980; or
(8) an alien who (or whose child or parent) has
been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty in
the United States and otherwise satisfies the
requirements of 8 U.S.C. 1641(c)

In the attached August 4, 1998, Federal Register notice, (63 FR 41658) Department of Health and Human Services identified 31 programs that provide Federal Public Benefits.

The Community Services Block Grant Program has been determined **not** to provide Federal public benefits as defined in Title IV of PRWORA and therefore, is not required to implement new verification requirements promulgated by the Department of Justice which were published in the Federal Register on August 4, 1998, (63 FR 41662). Non citizens, regardless of their alien status, should not be banned from Community Services Block Grant programs based solely on their alien status unless such exclusion is already authorized by another statute.

INQUIRIES:

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Attachment
Federal Register Notice (63 FR 41658)