

**DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. FOOD ASSISTANCE AND ENERGY PROGRAMS 4-2006 (Faith-Based Drug Addiction and Alcoholic Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs (June 21, 2006)**

**(Food Stamps)**

**TO:** County Directors of Social Services

**ATTENTION:** Food Stamp Supervisors

**DATE:** June 21, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Faith-Based Drug Addiction and Alcoholic Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs

**EFFECTIVE:** Upon Receipt

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently provided clarification to questions raised regarding faith-based and community Drug Addiction and Alcoholic Treatment and Rehabilitation Programs. These questions pertain to whether residents of faith-based and community Drug Addiction and Alcoholic recovery programs were being denied the ability to participate in the Food Stamp Program due to requirements for state licensing of the facility. This letter clarifies guidelines for the certification of households who are participants in Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centers.

**II. POLICY PROCEDURES**

**A.** For food stamp purposes, federal regulations define an Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centers (ADTC) as a non-profit institution providing treatment that can lead to the rehabilitation of its residents. Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centers must be authorized to receive and use food stamp benefits on behalf of eligible recipients/residents. In order for residents of an ADTC to be certified to receive food stamps, the center must be operated by a non-profit organization or institution, or a publicly operated community mental health center and meet one of the following criteria:

1. The program must be licensed by the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services as a certified treatment program; or

2. Provide a letter from the North Carolina Division of Mental Health/DD/SAS acknowledging the facility is operating for the purpose of providing treatment that can lead to the rehabilitation of drug addicts and/or alcoholics; or

3. Be authorized as a retailer by Food and Nutrition Service.

**B.** If an Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center is not licensed by the North Carolina Division of Mental Health/DD/SAS and cannot provide documentation that it meets the Food Stamp Program criteria for an ADTC, take steps to facilitate contact between the ADTC and the Department of Mental Health/DD/SAS. The ADTC must meet one of the above requirements before food stamp eligibility for residents of the center is determined.

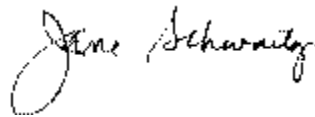
Do not impose additional requirements on faith-based Alcohol and Drug Treatment Centers participation in the Food Stamp Program.

### **III. IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS**

No mass change is required to implement this clarification. Apply these procedures to all applications, reapplications, recertifications and changes upon receipt of this Administrative Letter.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Food Assistance and Energy Programs Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Schwartz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jane Schwartz, Chief

Economic Services Section

JS:dl