

Food Stamp Regulations Proposed

JUNEAU — A number of new proposed food stamp regulations expanding the coverage of the program and providing greater and improved benefits to more needy people are currently being considered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Director Stan Harris of the Division of Family and Children Services said that, "All interested persons, citizen groups and public agencies may submit written comments, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed amendments to James H. Kocher, Director, Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20205, no later than March 4,

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1974."

Some significant provisions in the proposed regulations include the following:

(1) Eligible household members, 60 years or older, who are housebound, feeble, physically handicapped or otherwise disabled to the extent they are unable to adequately prepare all their meals may be able to use all or part of the coupons to purchase meals prepared for and delivered to them by an authorized non-profit meal delivery service.

(2) No residency requirements shall be required by the state for any eligible U.S. citizen.

(3) Members of eligible households who are narcotics addicts or alcoholics and who regularly participate in a drug or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program on a non-resident basis, or households which are participating as residents of a facility or treatment center may use their coupons to purchase food prepared or served to them during the course of the program.

(4) Eligible households in Alaska residing in areas where access to retail food stores is difficult, and who rely substantially on hunting and fishing for subsistence, may use food coupons to purchase hunting and fishing equipment excluding firearms, ammunition and other explosives.

(5) No household will be denied participation in the program solely on the grounds that a member of that household is not working because of a strike (unless the strike has been adjudged illegal) or lockout at his

place of employment.

(6) Any employment offered a recipient will be considered suitable unless he can demonstrate that there is unreasonable risk to his health or safety; he is mentally or physically disabled as established by medical documentation; or the commuting distance between place of residency and place of employment is unreasonable or represents more than 25% of the total work time.

Harris noted that a copy of these latest proposed amendments can be obtained through the U.S. Department of Agriculture offices located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.