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**EBT**

**Food Stamp Card  
Coming to Fresno**

## **County Decisions for EBT - Electronic Benefits Transfer**

### **ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER – COUNTY DECISIONS AND CASH EBT**

All Food Stamps will be delivered by an EBT CARD around the beginning of 2003.

Fresno County will decide

- 1) If Cash Benefits will be part of the EBT CARD.
- 2) Which Cash Benefits will be distributed by EBT: CalWORKS and General Relief, RCA/ECA, CAPI.

The County and State together will decide

- 1) Where recipients will be able to access their cash benefits.

Counties will decide in the next few months whether to issue cash benefits through the EBT Card. Counties will be told how much it will cost for them to use EBT for cash benefits. They can make the decision as soon as they are notified about the cost, and they must make a decision within 12 weeks after notification.

#### **COUNTY DECISIONS:**

- 1) Will recipients receive these EBT CARDS and PINs (Personal Identification Numbers) and training information by mail? Or, will any of these be given in person by the county at certain locations?
- 2) If the county chooses to mail out the cards, there will be walk-in training centers. Where will they be located? How many will there be?
- 3) If cards are issued in person, where will this take place? County Office, district offices or other locations.
- 4) If a recipient loses a card, will he or she receive a replacement by mail (3 business days) or immediately at a county office?
- 5) In which languages will training materials be provided?
- 6) Which community based organizations will receive free training about EBT?

**ADVANTAGES OF CASH BENEFIT DELIVERY THROUGH EBT CARDS**

- 1) Reduce check-cashing fees. Recipients will have 4 free cash withdrawal transactions every month at certain locations.
- 2) Increased safety because recipients will not have to carry large sums of cash
- 3) Learn the technology of the commercial banking system
- 4) Counties are required to work with advocates to decide where the no fee locations will be for cash withdrawals.

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**DISADVANTAGES OF CASH BENEFIT DELIVERY THROUGH EBT CARDS**

- 1) Loss of anonymity or privacy because the location of electronic transactions might be tracked by the State or County
- 2) Potential for poor access because the cash plans in each county will be made after the county has decided to participate
- 3) Unless the county obtains a waiver from the State, three day staggering for cash benefits

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