

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

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FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAMS
-- JUNEAU

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REPLY TO: All Local Agencies Memorandum No. 11-05

DATE: March 16, 2011

TO: X - LA Coordinators
X - Satellites

FROM: Kathleen Wayne, MS, RD, LD
Manager, FNP – WIC Program

SUBJECT: Income Tax Refunds

Action - X
Information -
Policy - X

Routine - (email and hard copy) -
Urgent - (fax and hard copy) - X

On December 17, 2009, President Obama signed into law the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. We are alerting you to an important provision in this legislation.

Under the new law:

- The total amount of a federal refund received after December 31, 2009 – regardless of whether the refund is the result of a refundable credit, over-withholding, or both – is disregarded as income and resources in the month received.
- The resource exclusion lasts for 12 months.

To comply with the new law, please ensure that certification procedures are designed so that individuals and families have the opportunity – before eligibility or benefit decisions are made – to provide information about a tax refund, if the exclusion of the refund could affect eligibility. In addition, please note that because the provision applies to all refunds received after December 31, 2009, individuals or families applying for benefits or updating their eligibility in 2011 may have received a tax refund in 2010 that now needs to be disregarded.

If you have any questions concerning the new law and its provisions as they pertain to WIC income eligibility determinations, please contact Becky Carrillo at 465-8629 or by e-mail at Rebecca.Carrillo@alaska.gov.