

**Operations Memorandum - Miscellaneous**  
**OPS990705**

**SUBJECT:** Kosovar Refugees  
**TO:** Executive Directors  
**FROM:** Raymond E. Schlechter, Director, Bureau of Operations

**Purpose**

To provide County Assistance Offices (CAOs) with guidance concerning the determination of eligibility for cash, Medicaid, and food stamps for the refugees from Kosovo who resettle in Pennsylvania.

**Background/Discussion**

The Kosovar refugees who resettle in Pennsylvania through the sponsorship of voluntary resettlement agencies are eligible for assistance based on the same rules and regulations that apply to other refugees. The Kosovar refugees may apply for lawful permanent resident status after one year.

**Eligibility For Cash Assistance**

As with other newly-arrived refugees, if application is made for cash assistance, eligibility will be determined for TANF first. If ineligible for TANF, then eligibility is determined for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA). **REMINDER:** Eligibility for RCA is limited to the eight months following the refugee's date of entry into the United States. If the refugee is not eligible for RCA, then eligibility is determined for general assistance

**Eligibility for Medicaid**

Medicaid eligibility is determined for the TANF/SSI-related programs first. If ineligible for these Medicaid programs, then eligibility is determined for Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA). **REMINDER:** Eligibility for RMA is limited to the eight months following the refugee's date of entry into the United States.

Refer to Supplemental Handbook Chapter 730 and Policy Clarification [PO-6723-730](#) for RCA and RMA eligibility requirements.

**Eligibility For Food Stamps**

The Kosovar refugees are eligible for food stamps for seven years after they enter this country if all other eligibility requirements are met. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provided all

State Food Stamp Program Directors with a “fact sheet” in both English and Albanian which explains the food stamp program and the WIC program and how refugees should apply. The “fact sheet” is to be copied and made available to the Kosovar refugees and resettlement and sponsoring agencies. FNS also provided a “Kosovar Food Stamp Eligibility” document which identifies general food stamp eligibility information related to refugees. These documents will be forwarded to the CAOs by regular mail.

### **Next Steps**

1. Share this Operations Memorandum with appropriate staff.
2. Provide copies of the food stamp/WIC “fact sheet” to all refugee resettlement and sponsoring agencies and Kosovar refugees who contact the CAO.
3. Refer any questions to your Area Manager.
4. This Operations Memorandum is obsolete after review.