

EM - Emergency Message

Effective Date: 06/05/2024

Identification Number: EM-24024 SEN

Intended Audience: All
RCs/ARCs/ADs/FOs/TSCs/PSCs/OCO/ODAR

Originating Office: ORDP OISP

Title: Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Eligibility for Citizens of the Compact of Free Association States (CFA)

Type: EM - Emergency Messages

Program: Title XVI (SSI)

Link To Reference: See References at the end of this EM

SENSITIVE - NOT TO BE SHARED WITH THE PUBLIC**Retention Date: December 05, 2024****A. Purpose**

This sensitive Emergency Message (EM) provides technicians with interim instructions for handling SSI applications received from people from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), or the Republic of Palau who are also residents of one of the 50 U.S. States, District of Columbia, or Northern Mariana Islands (NMI).

B. Background

On March 9, 2024, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-42) amended the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), to permit SSI eligibility for certain citizens from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, as well as certain spouses and certain children (under age 21) of citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands, regardless of the spouse's or child's citizenship or nationality, provided that the Micronesian or Marshallese citizen on which the relationship is based is serving on active duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces, or in the active reserves.

These individuals may be eligible for SSI benefits immediately if they meet all other requirements of the program such as filing an application for benefits, having resources and monthly income below the statutory eligibility limits, and residing within one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands.

C. Verification of SSI Alien Eligibility for CFA citizens.

As part of the SSI application process, the immigration documentation provided by the CFA citizen must be verified via the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system in all cases. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) may have issued Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record to CFA citizens following admission into the United States, which would also bear the admission stamp and notations that typically states “CFA/PAL” (Compact of Free Association/Palau), “CFA/FSM” (Compact of Free Association/ Federated States of Micronesia), or “CFA/MIS” (Compact of Free Association/Republic of Marshall Islands). Some older versions may be marked “CFA/RMI” for an RMI citizen. The admission period will indicate D/S (duration of status). Additionally, CFA citizens may be issued an electronic I-94, which the CFA citizen can access and print out a copy by visiting the [CBP electronic I-94 printout website](#)

USCIS may have also issued an I-766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD) with a category code of A08.

D. Processing instructions for SSI applications from citizens from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), or the Republic of Palau - HOLDING CASES TEMPORARILY.

Take the SSI application regardless of whether the individual resides in any of the 50 U.S. States, District of Columbia, or Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) and use the specific coding instructions below to hold the case until future processing instructions are released. If the individual resides in a U.S. territory (other than NMI) or elsewhere outside of the U.S., then it would be appropriate to take the application and deny the claim.

Continue to develop all other factors of eligibility including sending the case to DDS for medical decision. Technical denials for non-medical reasons such as excess income and excess resources should not be held as those individuals would be ineligible regardless of immigration status.

Follow these specific coding instructions to identify and control these cases:

(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]
(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]
(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]
(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]
(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]
(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]
(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]
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(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]
(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]

Direct all programs–related and technical questions to your Regional Office (RO) support staff using vHelp or Program Service Center (PSC) Operations Analysis (OA) staff. RO support staff or PSC OA staff may refer questions, concerns, or problems to their CO contacts.

Reference:

- [SI 00502.100](#) Basic SSI Alien Eligibility Requirements
- [SI 00502.130](#) Documentary Evidence of Qualified Alien Status
- [SI 00502.142](#) Qualified Aliens Who Are Blind Or Disabled And Were Lawfully Residing In The U.S. On 8/22/96
- [GN 00303.400](#) Authorized Alien Status

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Link to this document:

(b) (7)(E) [Redacted]