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GENERAL INFORMATION SYSTEM
DIVISION: Temporary Assistance

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TO: Commissioners; IM Directors; Medicaid Directors

FROM: Patricia Stevens, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Temporary Assistance

Betty Rice, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Consumer and Local District Relations

SUBJECT: Technical Amendment to Alien Provisions of Welfare Reform

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Temporary Assistance: Region I (518) 473-0332
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This is to advise social services districts of a technical amendment to the Welfare Reform Act of 1997, affecting the eligibility of certain qualified aliens.

Chapter 214 of the Laws of 1998 amended Section 122 of the Social Services Law to provide that a qualified alien who entered the United States before August 22, 1996, and continuously resided in the United States until attaining qualified status is eligible for Family Assistance, Medicaid, and Safety Net Assistance. Previously, the law required that the alien must have been a lawful resident of the United States before August 22, 1996.

Thus, an individual who is currently a qualified alien and can demonstrate to the district's satisfaction that he or she has continuously resided in the United States since before August 22, 1996, can be found eligible for the above mentioned programs without regard to the length of time the individual has had qualified alien status.