

# Opportunities to Maximize the Effects of Immigrant Restorations in the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2002

*Preserving and Increasing  
Immigrant Food Stamp Replacement  
Programs*

## **Food Research and Action Center**

1875 Connecticut Ave, NW

Suite 540

Washington, DC 20009

Phone 202-986-2200

<http://www.frac.org>

by Sonya Schwartz, NAPIL Equal Justice Fellow  
Brad Haywood, Law Clerk, FRAC

**T**he Food Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2002 (“Food Stamp Reauthorization Act”) that President Bush signed into law on May 13, 2002, will restore food stamp benefits for almost 400,000 taxpaying legal immigrants nationwide. The passage of the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act presents an excellent opportunity to reach out to low-income immigrant families and ensure that they have access to the nutrition safety net.

The rules for immigrants are complex and have changed frequently since 1996. Before 1996, most legal immigrants were eligible for food stamps. The passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act in 1996 (“PRWORA”), however, made most low-income legal immigrants ineligible for the Food Stamp Program under federal law<sup>i</sup>. Although they lost eligibility for the federal program, an amendment to PRWORA in 1997 gave states the authority to provide state-funded food stamp replacement programs for immigrants by purchasing federal food stamps.<sup>ii</sup>

In the aftermath of PRWORA, Congress has twice acted to restore federal food stamps for certain legal immigrants. The Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 restored food stamp benefits for legal immigrants who were in the United States before August 22, 1996 and were elderly, are children or are disabled. The recently enacted Food Stamp Reauthorization Act phases in food stamp restorations for legal immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for five years, legal immigrant children regardless of their date of entry, and legal immigrants with disabilities.<sup>iii</sup> In short, while pre-96 law has not yet been restored, large groups of immigrants now are eligible for food stamp benefits.

Seventeen states have enacted food stamp replacement programs since 1996 (two states have discontinued their programs). But, in the last year, state budget shortfalls have put many state food stamp replacement programs in jeopardy. For example, in Massachusetts, the state’s expansive food stamp replacement program ran out of funds in early May and the state began cutting cases. Its funding is uncertain for next year. Connecticut’s program recently faced a challenge in the legislature and, although it was funded through the next fiscal year, Connecticut has ceased intake of new cases. Most states that have confronted the issue, however, have decided to continue the programs until some or all of the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act restorations take effect.

This analysis intends to inform state anti-hunger groups and others about the impact of the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act on federal food stamp eligibility for legal immigrants and to encourage states to maintain their state-funded food stamp replacement programs and maximize nutrition assistance for low-income immigrants as the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act restorations take effect.

## **Federal Food Stamp Immigrant Eligibility Rules**

### **Pre-Food Stamp Reauthorization Act**

Under current law, before the new Food Stamp Reauthorization Act provisions take effect, most legal immigrants are ineligible for food stamps. Immigrants are eligible for food stamps if they were lawfully residing in the U.S. on August 22, 1996 and are: 1) elderly individuals born on or before August 22, 1931; 2) children younger than 18 years; or 3) disabled individuals who are receiving benefits for their condition. In addition, lawful permanent residents who have worked forty qualifying quarters are eligible. Asylees, refugees, Cuban or Haitian entrants, Amerasians and individuals granted withholding of deportation are eligible without regard to the date of residence, but receipt of food stamps is limited to seven years from the date asylum, refugee, or other status was granted. Hmong or Highland Laotian tribe members, certain American Indians born in Canada, and certain individuals with U.S. military connections are also eligible and have no time limit.

### **The Food Stamp Reauthorization Act**

The Food Stamp Reauthorization Act includes three additional immigrant provisions with three distinct effective dates [See Appendixes A and B].

#### **1. The Food Stamp Reauthorization Act restores food stamp benefits for all qualified immigrant children (takes effect October 2003).**

Under current law, qualified immigrant children (under 18 years of age) are only eligible for food stamps if they were lawfully residing in the United States on August 22, 1996. Under the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act, as of October 1, 2003, all qualified immigrant children under 18 will be eligible for food stamps, regardless of their date of entry. Qualified immigrants include lawful permanent residents (holders of green cards), refugees, asylees, and people granted withholding of deportation or removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, individuals who have received INS parole in the US for at least one year, conditional entrants, and certain victims of domestic violence.<sup>iv</sup>

#### **2. The Food Stamp Reauthorization Act restores food stamp benefits for certain qualified immigrants who receive a disability benefit for their condition (takes effect October 1, 2002).**

Under current law, qualified immigrants who receive a disability benefit for their condition are only eligible for food stamps if they were lawfully

residing in the United States on August 22, 1996. Under the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act, as of October 2002, qualified immigrants who receive a “disability benefit” for their condition can receive food stamps.<sup>v</sup>

Receiving a “disability benefit” is defined as the receipt of: Supplemental Security Income benefits (“SSI”), federally or state administered supplemental assistance; interim assistance pending SSI; disability-related medical assistance; disability-based state general assistance; disability-based general assistance; and disability or blindness payments under Title I to XVI of the Social Security Act.<sup>vi</sup> Individuals who receive a “disability benefit” also include veterans, spouses or children of veterans who have a service-connected or non-service-connected disability rated as total under Title 38, or are considered in need of regular aid or attendance or permanently housebound; or receive an annuity under the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974.<sup>vii</sup>

While qualified immigrants who arrived in the U.S. after August 22, 1996 are not at this time eligible for SSI, those who receive disability-related Medicaid or other disability benefits for their condition, as listed above, would be able to receive food stamps.

**3. For all others not otherwise eligible, the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act lifts the permanent bar on food stamp eligibility and replaces it with a five-year residency requirement (takes effect April 1, 2003).**

Under the federal welfare law, many legal immigrants (who do not have forty qualifying quarters of work history in the U.S.) are kept from receiving food stamps by the permanent bar on eligibility. Under the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act, as of April 1, 2003, food stamp benefits will be restored for qualified immigrants who have been living in the U.S. for five years.<sup>viii</sup> This provision also lifts the seven year cap for refugees, asylees, Cuban or Haitian entrants, Amerasians, and individuals granted withholding of deportation or withholding of removal if they are able to adjust to lawful permanent resident status. The Bush Administration estimates that 363,000 legal immigrants will be covered under the five-year rule.

## **State Food Stamp Replacement Programs**

Under the federal welfare laws states may choose to provide state-funded food stamp replacement programs for immigrants.<sup>ix</sup> In order to do this, a state must enact a law that affirmatively provides eligibility for the benefit. At the time of this report, 15 states have such a food stamp replacement program for immigrants.<sup>x</sup> The programs range in the types of immigrants that they cover, the number of people that they serve, and the manner in which they are funded [See Appendix C].

## **1. Types of Immigrants Covered**

States have taken one of two general approaches towards food stamp replacement programs. First, some states have chosen to provide food stamp benefits to only a narrow group of legal immigrants. For example, New York, Ohio and Texas provide food stamps only to selected elderly immigrants not covered under federal law. As a result, their programs are rather small and not very costly. Maryland's program is slightly broader, providing food stamps to immigrant children regardless of their date of entry. On the other end of the spectrum are the programs that cover all legal immigrants who would be eligible for federal food stamps (i.e. are low-income) but for their immigration status. Programs of this type include those in California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Washington and Wisconsin (although Connecticut and Massachusetts impose minor residency requirements).

## **2. Number of Immigrants Served**

The comprehensive programs are most effective in reaching out to low-income immigrant families. California's program, for example, serves approximately 97,000 individuals each month. Until May of this year, Massachusetts's program served approximately 8,000 food stamp households.<sup>xi</sup>

## **3. Funding Mechanisms**

Most state food stamp replacement programs are "permanent" (i.e. there are no sunset provisions). Nonetheless, they are subject to state budgeting procedures. For example, the State Supplemental Food Program in Massachusetts cost \$8.5 million for Fiscal Year 2002. When the Program ran out of funds in May, the legislature declined to add additional funds, and began cutting cases. Funding for next year remains uncertain. Minnesota and Connecticut's programs have also faced recent legislative challenge. Minnesota received a one-year reprieve from a sunset provision that would have restricted benefits to immigrants over 50. Connecticut has ceased intake of additional cases.

## **States Should Maintain State Food Stamp Replacement Programs For Immigrants as the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act Takes Effect**

States should maintain their replacement programs as the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act takes effect for a number of reasons. First, states will have to fill much narrower gaps – and therefore state programs will become much less costly – in October 2003 when the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act is fully implemented. Second, keeping the state replacement program will make it easier to maintain enrollment of immigrant families and reach out to new immigrant families, bringing federal food stamp funds into the state. Third, state programs currently play a vital role in reducing hunger among immigrant families.

### **1. States Will Have to Fill Much Narrower Gaps Once the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act Takes Effect**

When the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act takes full effect on October 1, 2003, the gap in federal food stamp eligibility will be much smaller. On that date, the Federal Food Stamp Program will cover all qualified legal immigrants except for recently arrived lawful permanent resident adults. Since these gaps in federal law will be smaller, state programs that fill these gaps will be smaller and considerably less expensive to maintain.

Beginning in April 2003, states with limited food stamp replacement programs can use savings gleaned from the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act restorations to fill-in more of the shrinking gap. States may choose to provide state-funded food stamps to parents of qualified immigrant children who will be covered under the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act restoration. They may also want to provide food stamps to permanent resident adults without children and persons permanently residing under color of law (“PRUCOL”).<sup>xii</sup>

### **2. Keeping Immigrant Families on State Food Stamp Replacement Programs Will Ease Administrative Burdens and Create a Seamless Transition from State to Federal Food Stamps.**

Maintaining immigrant families on state food stamp replacement programs will ease state administrative burdens. If state food stamps are cut, state agencies will have to send a notice to each effected household. When federal food stamps are restored, many of the same individuals and families may return to the welfare office to reapply. This will create unnecessary work for state welfare offices.

Some low-income immigrant families may be cut off from the food stamp program and never return to reapply for federal food stamps. It is likely

that immigrant families will not understand the difference between the state food stamp program and the federal food stamp program. For example, if a state replacement program is cut and an immigrant family receives notice that their food stamps will be terminated, that same family may not understand the changes in eligibility rules and may not reapply when the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act restorations take effect.

States that lose the opportunity for a seamless transition will also face obstacles when reaching out to the immigrant population. It is already a challenge to enroll eligible citizen children in immigrant families in the food stamp program. According to USDA, among eligible citizen children of non-citizen adults, only 45 percent receive food stamps.<sup>xiii</sup>

### **3. State replacement programs provide a vital role in reducing hunger in immigrant families.**

Many eligible immigrant and citizen children live with immigrant parents, and it will be easier to reach eligible children when there is a clear message that their parents are also eligible for food stamps. Immigrant adults often live in households that include citizens. The Urban Institute has found that 85 percent of immigrant families with children are mixed status families (families in which at least one parent is a noncitizen and one child is a citizen).<sup>xiv</sup>

State replacement programs have served a vital role in reducing hunger in immigrant families. In a comparison between states with good state food stamp replacement programs for immigrants, and those with no state replacement program, Harvard Professor George Borjas found that legal immigrants who did not receive food stamps after welfare reform experienced higher rates of food insecurity than legal immigrants who had access to them.<sup>xv</sup> The Urban Institute also reported that more inclusive state food stamp replacement programs for immigrants corresponded with less hardship in affording food.<sup>xvi</sup>

## **Conclusion**

The passage of the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act presents a great opportunity to reach out to low-income immigrant families and ensure that they have access to the nutrition safety net. We hope this will help states maximize the effects of the food stamp restorations in the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act by preserving and increasing state food stamp replacement programs for immigrants.

**Appendix A:**  
**Comparison of Current Federal Law to Federal Law Restorations in the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act**

Provision	Current Law	Food Stamp Reauthorization Act (P.L. 107-171 Section 4401)	Effective Date
<p><b>Restores Food Stamp Benefits for Qualified Immigrants Who Have Lived in the U.S. for at least Five Years. Lifts the Seven-Year Cap For Asylees, Refugees if they Are able to Adjust to Lawful Permanent Resident Status.</b></p>	<p>Most legal immigrants, regardless of when they entered the U.S. are not eligible for federal food stamp benefits. There are some exemptions based on work history, age, disability, asylee/refugee and other immigration status.</p> <p>Asylees, refugees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, Amerasians, and individuals granted withholding of deportation or withholding of removal only receive food stamps for seven years from the date this status was granted.</p>	<p>Restores food stamp benefits for qualified immigrants who have lived in the U.S. as qualified immigrants for at least five years. Qualified immigrants include lawful permanent residents (holders of green cards), refugees, asylees, and people granted withholding of deportation or removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, individuals who have received INS parole in the US for at least one year, conditional entrants, and certain victims of domestic violence. The Bush Administration estimates that this provision would restore eligibility for about 363,000 immigrants.*</p> <p>Asylees, refugees, Cuban and Haitian entrants, Amerasians, and individuals granted withholding of deportation or withholding of removal will be able to retain their benefits even after the seven-year period expires if they have lived in the United states as qualified immigrants for at least five years.</p>	<p>April 1, 2003</p>
<p><b>Restores Food Stamp Benefits for Legal Immigrant Children</b></p>	<p>Qualified immigrant children are eligible for food stamps only if they were lawfully residing in the U.S. on August 22, 1996 or if they meet another exemption.</p>	<p>Restores benefits for qualified immigrant children younger than 18 years of age without a residency requirement. Children would not be subject to the 5-year bar or to deeming provisions.</p>	<p>October 1, 2003</p>
<p><b>Allows Disabled Legal Immigrants Who Receive a Benefit for Their Condition to Receive Food Stamps</b></p>	<p>Disabled individuals are eligible for food stamps only if they were lawfully residing in the U.S. on August 22, 1996 and if they are currently receiving benefits for their condition or if they meet another exemption.</p>	<p>Restores benefits for qualified disabled immigrants if they are receiving benefits for their condition, regardless of date of entry. Qualified immigrants who arrived in the U.S. after August 22, 1996 are not eligible for SSI under current law. However, if qualified immigrants receive disability-related Medicaid or other disability benefits for their condition they would be able to receive food stamps*</p>	<p>October 1, 2002</p>

\*Sponsor deeming will apply. Deeming means that the resources and income of the immigrant's sponsor will be considered available to the immigrant's household.

**Appendix B**  
**Federal Food Stamp Eligibility Pre and Post Food Stamp Reauthorization Act Restorations**

<b>Immigrant Category</b>	<b>Eligibility Pre -Food Stamp Reauthorization Act<sup>xvii</sup></b>	<b>Eligibility Post-Food Stamp Reauthorization Act</b>
Qualified <sup>xviii</sup> Permanent Resident Children Who Are Now Younger Than 18 Years of Age.	Eligible if they were lawfully residing in the U.S on August 22, 1996	Eligible regardless of date of entry (Takes Effect October 1, 2003)
Qualified Permanent Resident Elderly Individuals Born Before August 22, 1931 (71 Years of Age or Older in 2002).	Eligible if they were lawfully residing in the U.S. on August 22, 1996.	Eligible if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. they were lawfully residing in the U.S on August 22, 1996, OR</li> <li>2. If they have lived in the U.S. as a qualified immigrant for five years (Takes effect April 1, 2003).</li> </ol>
Qualified Blind and Disabled Individuals Who Are Receiving Benefits or Assistance for Their Condition.	Eligible if they were lawfully residing in the U.S. on August 22, 1996.	Eligible (Takes Effect October 1, 2002).
Other Legal Permanent Residents	Eligible they have worked forty qualifying quarters or inherited forty quarters of work from a parent or spouse.	Eligible if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They have lived in the U.S. as a qualified immigrant for five years (Takes effect April 1, 2003); OR</li> <li>2. They have worked forty qualifying quarters or inherited forty quarters of work from a parent or spouse.</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asylees</li> <li>• Refugees</li> <li>• Cuban or Haitian Entrants</li> <li>• Amerasians</li> <li>• Individuals Granted Withholding of Deportation.</li> </ul>	Eligible, but only for seven years from the date of the asylum, refugee or other status the INS granted.	Eligible with no seven year cap, if they live in the united states as a qualified immigrant for five years (Takes effect on April 1, 2003).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hmong or Highland Laotian Tribe Members When the Tribe Rendered Assistance to U.S. Personnel by Taking Part in a Military Rescue Operation</li> <li>• Canadian-Born American Indians</li> <li>• Individuals with US military connections</li> </ul>	Eligible.	Eligible.

## Appendix C

### State Food Stamp Replacement Programs<sup>xix</sup>

State	Eligible Persons <sup>xx</sup>	Facts About Program	Status of Program
<b>California</b>	All legal immigrants who are not eligible for federal food stamps.	Serves approximately 93,627 persons per month at a cost of \$6,390,242.	After passage of the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act, money was added to the budget to compensate for gaps left by federal restorations.
<b>Connecticut</b>	All legal immigrants who have resided in Connecticut at least six months, if they arrived after 4/1/98. Those who arrived prior to 4/1/98 have no residency requirement.	Served approximately 1300-1400 persons per month in 2001 (1600 in 2002) at a cost of \$42-44,000.	Has ceased new intake. After budget fight, the legislature agreed to fund currently enrolled persons through next year. The budget has \$1.18mil presently allocated, and would require an additional \$1.96mil to reinstate new intake.
<b>Illinois</b>	Legal immigrants who were lawfully residing in the U.S. before 8/22/96 and are: 1) now between ages 60-64, or 2) parents of eligible children.	Serves approximately 266 persons per month at a cost of \$17,500.	Not available.
<b>Maine</b>	All legal immigrants who are not eligible for federal food stamps.	Serves approximately 572 persons per month at a cost of \$32,046.	Although Maine is facing a budget crisis, the program is likely to survive.
<b>Maryland</b>	Legal immigrant children under 18 who arrived in the U.S. after 8/22/96.	Serves approximately 394 persons a month at a cost of \$39,355.	Not available.
<b>Massachusetts</b>	All legal immigrants who are not eligible for federal food stamps and have resided in Massachusetts for 60 days.	Serves approximately 8000 persons per month at a cost of \$90.00 per person, per month.	Funded at \$8.5 million in 2002, but ran out of money in early May and began cutting recipients. It would have required \$1.2 million to extend the program through the end of the fiscal year. The state house and senate differ widely over funding levels for next fiscal year.
<b>Minnesota</b>	All legal immigrants who are not eligible for federal food stamps.	Served approximately 6300 people last year, at a cost of \$3.4 million.	As of July 1, 2003, only legal immigrants 50 years of age or older will qualify for program.
<b>Nebraska</b>	All legal immigrants who are not eligible for federal food stamps.	Serves approximately 806 persons per month at a cost of \$68,476.	Nebraska is facing a budget crisis, but thus far, no one has called for cuts to the program.
<b>New Jersey</b>	Legal immigrant parents of food stamp-eligible children. Elderly legal immigrants (65 or older) arriving after 8/22/96, and legal immigrants who are General Assistance unemployables.	Not available.	Not available.
<b>New York</b>	Legal immigrants older than 60 years of age (but born after 8/22/31) who resided in New York prior to 8/22/96. Domestic violence victims who live in a participating district, have lived in that district since 8/22/96, and apply for citizenship within 30 days of their food stamp application.	Serves approximately 615 persons per month at a cost of \$75,132.	Not available.
<b>Rhode Island</b>	Legal immigrants who are not eligible for food stamps and have resided in Rhode Island before 8/22/96.	Served 2279 persons in May '02; costs approximately \$5 million per year.	The Governor proposed cutting program as of October 2002; legislature pressured Governor to extend the date of the cut until Apr. '03. Budget still not passed, but program appears intact until April.
<b>Texas</b>	Legal immigrants who lawfully resided in the U.S. on 8/22/96, but turned 65 between 8/23/96 and 9/1/97 when the Texas immigrant food stamp replacement program was initiated.	Serves approximately 252 seniors per month.	The program is permanent; no risk of being cut.
<b>Washington</b>	All legal immigrants who are not eligible for federal food stamps.	Served 9965 persons in March 2002. For the last two fiscal years the program was funded at \$6.07 million. Cut to \$4.47 million for FY03.	The state legislature tried to end the program, but when told the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act would take over many of the restorations in FY03, it was extended.
<b>Wisconsin</b>	All legal immigrants who are not eligible for federal food stamps.	Served 1648 persons in April 2002 at a cost of \$86,711; expected to cost \$906,000 this year, and approximately \$864,000-\$1.05 million next year.	Wisconsin is facing a \$1 billion budget crisis; however, there has been no discussion of cutting the program.

## Endnotes

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<sup>i</sup> Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, 110 Stat. 2105 (codified as amended in scattered sections of 42 U.S.C.).

<sup>ii</sup> Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, Section 411 and 412, *as amended by* Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill, Pub. L. No. 105-18 (1997).

<sup>iii</sup> Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. No. 105-185 112 Stat. 523. Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-171 Section 4401.

<sup>iv</sup> Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, Section 431 (codified as amended in scattered sections of 42 U.S.C.).

<sup>v</sup> Receiving a disability benefit is defined under 7 USC § 2012(3)(r).

<sup>vi</sup> Food Stamp Act of 1977, 7 U.S.C. 2012(r).

<sup>vii</sup> *Id.*

<sup>viii</sup> For a definition of “qualified immigrant,” see section (b)(i) *supra*.

<sup>ix</sup> Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, Section 411 and 412, *as amended by* Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill, Pub. L. No. 105-18 (1997).

<sup>x</sup> Based on a telephone survey conducted by FRAC in June 2002.

<sup>xi</sup> A food stamp household is a group of people who purchase and prepare meals together. 7 C.F.R. § 273.1(a)(3).

<sup>xii</sup> “PRUCOL is a term that generally describes immigrants whom the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) knows are in the United States, but whom the INS is not taking steps to deport or remove.” *State Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants* (Nat’l. Immigration Law Center, Aug. 2001), *available at* [http://www.nilc.org/ciwc/ciwc\\_ce/CAPL.htm](http://www.nilc.org/ciwc/ciwc_ce/CAPL.htm).

<sup>xiii</sup> Randy Rosso, *Trends in Food Stamp Program Participation: 1994-1999* (USDA, Oct. 2001) *available at* <http://www.fns.usda.gov/OANE/MENU/published/FSP/Participation.htm>.

<sup>xiv</sup> Michael Fix, Wendy Zimmerman, and Jeffrey Passell, *The Integration of Immigrant Families in the United States* (Urban Institute, July 1, 2001), *available at* <http://www.urban.org>.

<sup>xv</sup> George Borjas, *Food Insecurity and Public Assistance* (Harvard University, May 2001), *available at* [www.sscnet.ucla.edu/soc/groups/ccsa/borjas.pdf](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/soc/groups/ccsa/borjas.pdf).

<sup>xvi</sup> Randy Capps, *Hardship Among Children of Immigrants: Findings from the 1999 National Survey of America’s Families* (Urban Institute, 2001), *available at* [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org). In Texas – a state with a very limited replacement program for immigrants not eligible for federally funded food stamps – nearly half of all children of immigrants live in families who worry about our have difficulty affording food. In states with more generous food stamp replacement programs, the corresponding rates, while disturbing, are much lower. For example, the percentage of children of immigrants living in families who worry about or have difficulty affording food in Washington is 34 percent; in New York, 33 percent; in Massachusetts, 28 percent; and in New Jersey, 27 percent.

<sup>xvii</sup> Immigrants, like other applicants, must meet income, resource, and work requirements to be eligible for food stamps.

<sup>xviii</sup> Qualified immigrants include lawful permanent residents, refugees, asylees, and people granted withholding of deportation or removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, individuals who have received INS parole in the US for at least one year, conditional entrants, and certain victims of domestic violence.

<sup>xix</sup> Based on a telephone survey conducted by FRAC in June 2002.

<sup>xx</sup> All immigrants must meet all other Food Stamp Program income, resource and work tests.