



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Aging and Adult Services**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Dennis W. Streets
Director

DAAS Administrative Letter No. 07-05

To: Aging Service Providers
Area Agencies on Aging

Subject: Verification of Citizenship under the Older Americans Act

Date: March 8, 2007

As you know, the older adult population in North Carolina continues to increase rapidly. In addition, the immigration rate is increasing at varying rates across all 100 counties. Specifically, local providers are experiencing more requests for service(s) from older adults and their caregivers who are residents but not citizens of the United States. The purpose of this letter is to clarify the citizenship eligibility of service recipients under the Older Americans Act.

After conferring with the U.S. Administration on Aging and the N.C. Attorney General's Office, we can affirm that **verification of citizenship of service recipients by service providing agencies is not required nor appropriate**. Furthermore, please note that the 2006 amendments to the Older Americans Act included a new priority group of "*older individuals with limited English proficiency*" which is in addition to "*low-income older individuals, including low-income minority older individuals, and older individuals residing in rural areas.*"

Additional eligibility requirements for each affected service, such as age and need, can be found in the individual service Policies and Procedures (i.e., Service Standards) through the Division's web site at: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/aging/monitor/mpolicy.htm>.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Hensley, Lead Monitor with the Division.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis W. Streets".

Dennis W. Streets, Director

cc: Jackie Sheppard
Pat Jeter
DAAS Staff