

personal property provided that such definition would at least include all tangible personal property as defined herein.

*Obligations* are the amounts of orders placed, contracts awarded, services received, and similar transactions during a given period which require payment.

*Offset* means a method to recover funds due FCS through use of the Letter of Credit system. Recovery is accomplished by accounting adjustments to increase Federal funds on hand or disbursed.

*OMB* means the Office of Management and Budget.

*Personal property* means property of any kind except real property. It may be tangible (having physical existence) or intangible (having no physical existence) such as patents, inventions and copyrights.

*Program* means both the Food Stamp Program and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

*Program closeout* means the process by which FCS determines that all applicable administrative and financial processes have been completed by the State agency and FCS terminates the program in the affected project area or areas.

*Project costs* are allowable costs as set forth in this part.

*Real property* means land, land improvements, structure and appurtenances thereto, excluding movable machinery and equipment.

*State agency* means the organization as defined in 7 CFR 271.1.

*State agency costs* means the State agency outlays from its funds available for program administration. Unless authorized by Federal legislation, costs charged to other Federal grants or to other Federal contracts may not be considered as State agency costs reimbursable under this authority.

*Subagency* means the organization or person to which a State agency makes any payment for acquisition of goods, materials or services for use in administering the program and which is accountable to the State agency for the use of funds provided.

*Terms and conditions* means legal requirements imposed by the Federal Government under statute, regula-

tions, contracts, agreements or otherwise.

*Unliquidated obligation* represents the amount of obligations not yet paid.

*Unobligated balance* means the portion of the Federal funds authorized less all allowable costs and unpaid obligations of the State agency.

### **§277.3 Budgets and budget revision procedures.**

The preparation, content, submittal, and revision requirements for the State Food Stamp Program Budget shall be as specified in §272.2. The application for funds and budget requirements for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations shall be as specified in §283.9. State agencies must submit a budget to FCS as part of the State Plan each fiscal year. Upon approval of the budget by FCS, administrative funds will be provided.

### **§277.4 Funding.**

(a) *General.* This section sets allowable cost standards for activities of State agencies in administering the Food Stamp Program and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

(b) *Federal reimbursement rate.* The base percentage for Federal payment shall be 50 percent of State agencies' allowable Food Stamp Program administrative costs.

(1) A 75 percent Federal reimbursement is payable for Food Stamp Program allowable costs incurred for State fraud investigations, prosecutions, and fraud hearings upon presentation and approval of a State Plan addendum as outlined in §277.15.

(2) A State agency's federally funded share of Food Stamp Program administrative costs shall be increased when its error rate, as determined through the quality control process described in part 275, meets certain standards.

(i) For the period beginning October 1, 1982, through September 30, 1988, a State agency with a payment error rate of five percent or less in the corresponding fiscal year shall have its federally funded share of Program administrative costs increased to 60 percent, provided that the State agency's negative case error rate is less than the national weighted mean negative case