

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



December 29, 2004

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-88-04

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
 Federal Law or Regulation Change
 Court Order
 Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
 Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF RECEPTION AND PLACEMENT CASH PROVIDED TO REFUGEES IN THE REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE AND CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS PROGRAMS.

REFERENCE: MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SECTIONS 69-206, 42-209 (QUARTERLY REPORTING), AND 44-101 (QUARTERLY REPORTING).

The purpose of this letter is to clarify existing policy regarding the treatment of reception and placement cash in the determination of eligibility for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program benefits. In the Refugee Resettlement Program, voluntary agencies, under contract with the United States (U.S.) Department of State, provide initial resettlement services to refugees. The voluntary agencies provide cash received from the U.S. Department of State to refugees within the refugee's first 90 days in the U.S. This cash is for reception and placement assistance.

RCA

Under the RCA Program, the reception and placement cash provided to refugees by the voluntary agencies is not counted as income in determining the applicant's eligibility for RCA benefits. This is in accordance with Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Section 69-206 which states:

.1 Income

Income shall be considered on the same basis as in the CalWORKs program for determining need and computing the assistance payment, except that the sponsored alien provisions as it applies in the CalWORKs program shall not be applied to RCA cases.

- .11 Any reception and placement cash received by a refugee after their arrival into the U.S. shall not be considered in determining income eligibility.

CalWORKs

Under the CalWORKs Program, reception and placement cash is treated as property under the nonrecurring lump sum payment rules stated in MPP 42-209.2 [Quarterly Reporting (QR)] and MPP 44-101(l) (QR). Property is evaluated at the time of application, annual redetermination and once each quarter. For example, if a family of 10 receives \$4,000 and has it at the time of application, they would be ineligible for CalWORKs benefits. If they receive it after they have been approved for CalWORKs, they would have until the end of their data month (the second

month of the designated quarter cycle) to spend down the funds below the resource limit. The resource limit for an Assistance Unit (AU) which includes at least one member aged 60 or older or a disabled member is \$3,000. The resource limit for all other AUs is \$2,000.

In the event that a refugee is determined ineligible to receive CalWORKs assistance due to the reception and placement cash received, counties shall evaluate the refugee's eligibility for RCA benefits. If the refugee is ineligible for CalWORKs but otherwise eligible for RCA, counties shall assist the refugee under the RCA Program.

Please contact Rosie Avena at (916) 654-1514 if you have questions relating to the CalWORKs Program and Kathy Noble at (916) 654-0495 for questions related to the RCA Program.

Sincerely,

VENUS GARTH, Chief
Child Care and Refugee Programs Branch

c: CWDA
Refugee County Coordinators