

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



July 13, 2000

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 00-45

TO: ALL COUNTY DIRECTORS
CalWORKs PROGRAM MANAGERSSUBJECT: PREGNANCY SPECIAL NEEDS
PAYMENT

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE 11450, MANUAL OF POLICIES
AND PROCEDURES SECTION 44-211.63 AND .64

This All County Letter (ACL) addresses the eligibility criteria for the pregnancy special needs payment set forth in Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Section 44-211.63 and .64, Pregnancy Special Needs. The purpose of this ACL is to instruct counties when to begin payment of this supplemental grant for those who meet the eligibility criteria under subdivision (a) of the Welfare and Institutions Code (W&IC) 11450, and to inform counties that modifications to these regulations will change eligibility criteria.

Section 11450 (c) of the W&IC provides for a payment of \$47 per month to meet special needs resulting from pregnancy, to all pregnant persons qualified for aid. Payments for the first five months of pregnancy are not to be made if the payment is considered income under federal law. Federal law no longer determines what is income for welfare recipients.

Effective immediately pregnancy special needs payments will begin after medical verification of the pregnancy is received and continue for the duration of the pregnancy. Regulations will be modified to reflect this change. An otherwise eligible pregnant woman with one or more needy children shall be considered eligible for the \$47 supplemental grant effective the month of verification of pregnancy, up through the month in which birth is anticipated.

Please note that a sanctioned or penalized person is not entitled to a special needs payment. A sanctioned person is not being aided and therefore would not be eligible for a special needs payment. A penalty requires that the cash aid needs of any person failing to comply with certain eligibility requirements not be considered. These needs include MPP 44.211.6, the special needs pregnancy payment. For example, a penalty can be imposed for not meeting the immunization requirement and/or the school attendance requirement as referenced in MPP 40-105.4(g) and 40-105.5(d). Also, counties should

note that MPP 44-340.42 prohibits the pregnancy special needs payment from being offset against an overpayment.

If you have any questions regarding this ACL please feel free to call on Matthew Hill, Program Analyst for Special Needs at (916) 654-6127.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Bruce Wagstaff

on 7/13/00

BRUCE WAGSTAFF

Deputy Director

Welfare to Work Division