

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

April 3, 1996

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 96- 13

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: 2.3% GRANT REDUCTION AND EXEMPTIONS FROM PAST REDUCTIONS

REFERENCE: EAS 44-115.3, 44-207.113, 44-315.311, 44-402.1 and 89-110.2

Introduction

This letter provides implementation instructions for proposed emergency regulations reducing the Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) amount used in cash assistance programs statewide by 2.3% and exempting certain Assistance Units (AUs) from this and other past MAP reductions. The phrase "cash assistance programs" refers to the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC-FG and AFDC-U) and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) programs. Reductions do not apply to the AFDC-Foster Care program.

The 2.3% reduction was originally implemented effective September 1, 1994 and subsequently enjoined under the Welch v. Anderson court order (see All-County Letter 94-58).

Under the provisions of the new regulations, AUs are designated as Exempt or Nonexempt. Exempt AUs will be paid based on the MAP levels in effect in July 1992. Nonexempt AUs will be paid based on the current levels with the 2.3% reduction.

The new MAP amounts and exemption standards become effective on June 1, 1996 for both new applications and ongoing cases. This letter includes:

- A discussion of the regulations, including implementation instructions and instructions on computer listings and aid codes (ATTACHMENT 1).
- A copy of the proposed regulations (ATTACHMENT 2).
- A copy of the required mass informing stuffer (ATTACHMENT 3).
- Copies of the applicable Notices of Action (NOAs - ATTACHMENT 4).
- A summary of the changes in MAP amounts in tabular form (ATTACHMENT 5).

Mass Informing Stuffer

A mass informing stuffer (TEMP 2116 - ATTACHMENT 3) to provide information about the changes in MAP amounts and the implementation of the new exemption standards is included in this package. This required stuffer shall be used as an advance alert to recipients. It instructs recipients to contact their workers if they believe they meet exemption standards.

The TEMP 2116 includes the State's toll-free number. Those calling the number will hear a taped message in both English and Spanish regarding the changes. The stuffer can be sent with the warrants, Monthly Eligibility Reports (CA 7/SAWS 7), NOAs, etc., or by separate mailing.

Cash Aid Notices of Action (NOAs)

ATTACHMENT 4 contains the applicable NOAs in English and Spanish required for changes in grant amount for affected AFDC and RCA recipients. The English language version of the NOA denying an applicant/recipient's request for Exempt status is attached. The Spanish version of this denial NOA will be available at a later date upon request through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Language Services Bureau. Implementation instructions for these NOAs are included.

Translated Forms and NOAs

Copies of the TEMP 2116 in English and Spanish are attached. Upon county request, the CDSS Forms Management Unit will supply camera-ready copies of the TEMP 2116 in English and Spanish. Upon county request, the CDSS Language Services Bureau will send camera-ready copies of all forms as translated into Cambodian, Vietnamese and Chinese to the applicable County Forms Coordinator. These translations will be available approximately 30 days from the the date of this letter. Additionally, the CDSS Language Services Bureau will send camera-ready copies of the NOAs in Spanish upon request.

Food Stamps

Adjustments in Food Stamp benefits resulting from the cash aid changes are considered a mass change as provided for in MPP 63-504.392. The mass informing stuffer (ATTACHMENT 3) contains the information necessary to advise Food Stamp recipients of benefit changes. An Individual Notice of Change (DFA 377.4) is not required if the sole reason for a change in benefits is the MAP change itself.

California Work Pays Demonstration Project (CWPDP) Research Counties (Alameda, San Joaquin, San Bernardino and Los Angeles)

Cases assigned to experimental status will be subject to the cash aid changes. Cases in control status will not be subject to the changes and will continue to be paid based on the July 1992 MAP levels. It is recommended that the mass informing stuffer not be sent to cases in control status. However, if this is not possible, the county may add the following language to the stuffer:

"If you are a member of the control group of the California Work Pays Demonstration Project, these changes don't apply to you."

Contacts

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact the following:

Subject	Contact Person	Phone
Regulations	Jim Lucas	(916) 654-1059 or CALNET 464-1059
Implementation	Jim Lucas	(916) 654-1059 or CALNET 464-1059
	Anna Chambers	(916) 654-1077 or CALNET 464-1077
Mass Change Stuffer	Arlene Jamar	(916) 657-2314 or CALNET 467-2314
AFDC NOAs	Pam Kian	(916) 654-1801 or CALNET 464-1801
Camera-ready copies of TEMP 2116 in English and Spanish	CDSS Forms Management Unit	(916) 657-1907 or CALNET 437-1907
Translations and camera-ready copies in Asian languages	CDSS Language Services Bureau	(916) 654-1282 or CALNET 464-1282
Food Stamps	Melissa Buchanan	(916) 654-8467 or CALNET 464-8467
Demonstration Projects	Leslie Raderman	(916) 657-2357 or CALNET 437-2357

Sincerely,



BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division

Attachments