

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



April 7, 1999

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 99-21

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

<p>REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> State Law Change</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federal Law or Regulation Change</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Court Order or Settlement Agreement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Clarification Requested by One or More Counties</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initiated by CDSS</p>

SUBJECT: CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS (CAPI) SUPPLEMENTARY SECURITY INCOME (SSI)/NATURALIZATION ADVOCACY

Assembly Bill 2779 allows county workers to provide SSI advocacy to CAPI recipients. This letter provides the criteria and allowable activities for SSI/Naturalization Advocacy with regard to CAPI recipients. The proposed SSI/Naturalization advocacy will include case management and referral activities associated with assisting CAPI recipients in applying for SSI.

CRITERIA

A CAPI client must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for SSI advocacy:

- Denied SSI due to immigration status, which includes a determination of “not disabled” for immigrants age 65 or over. (The disability determination is actually made by the State Disability Determination Office on behalf of the Social Security Administration).
- Approved for CAPI benefits.

ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES

We have identified the following activities performed by counties that are allowable for SSI/Naturalization advocacy:

- Assist the client in completing SSI appeal forms.
- Refer clients to a panel of attorneys to provide representation at a SSI appeal hearing.

- Assist in collecting medical and psychological records relating to the client. The client must have been denied SSI as indicated above or have an appeal pending of the SSI disability determination decision. This activity does not include county staff transporting or accompanying the CAPI client to appointments, or providing travel for the client to and from appointments.
- Assist the client in scheduling medical/psychiatric appointments. The client must have been denied SSI as indicated above or have an appeal pending of the SSI disability determination decision. This activity does not include county staff transporting or accompanying the client to and from medical appointments, or providing travel for the client to and from appointments.
- Provide assistance to the client in arranging for transportation to medical appointments. The client must have been denied SSI as indicated above or have an appeal pending the SSI disability determination decision. This activity does not include county staff transporting or accompanying the client to and from the appointment, or providing travel for the client to and from appointments.
- Submitting completed forms to the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the State Disability Determination Office.
- Act as a liaison with SSA and the State Disability Determination Office to ensure that all SSI related requirements are met for SSI approval.
- Assisting the client in obtaining citizenship. This assistance is defined as making referrals to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, assisting in completion of required citizenship documents, and making referrals to citizenship courses. This activity does not include paying for courses or county staff transporting or accompanying the client to and from the school to register for or attend courses, or providing travel for the client.

In order to assess the cost/benefit in providing SSI/Naturalization Advocacy services for CAPI recipients, the state will conduct a future one-time survey to collect this information. Information requested on the survey will include, but is not limited to the number of CAPI applicants with a pending SSI application, and the number of CAPI clients assisted by county workers in completing an SSI/SSP application. Counties should be prepared to provide this data at the time the survey is conducted.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACTIVITY

Please refer to County Fiscal Letter No. 98/99-51, dated December 15, 1998 for instructions on reporting county staff activity on SSI/Naturalization advocacy and claiming these activities for state reimbursement.

If you have any questions regarding CAPI SSI/Naturalization Advocacy, please contact your Adult Programs Operations Analyst at (916) 229-4000.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed by
Donna L. Mandelstam on 4/7/99***

DONNA L. MANDELSTAM
Deputy Director
Disability and Adult Programs Division