

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



September 21, 1999

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 99-69

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

**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: CalWORKs HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REFERENCE: HOMELESS ASSISTANCE CHANGES PURSUANT TO  
 ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 1111, CHAPTER 147, STATUTES 1999

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the changes made to the existing CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program regulations effective July 22, 1999. AB 1111, the budget trailer bill with social services provisions, increased the amount of the homeless assistance payment and shortened the length of time an individual must wait to qualify for an exception. These statutory changes take precedence over Departmental regulations, therefore counties are instructed to implement these provisions based on the statute. An emergency regulation package is being developed to change the regulations and is expected to be out by November 1, 1999. Forms and informing notices will be reviewed and updated if necessary.

Under these new provisions, a nonrecurring special need of \$40 a day shall be available to an Assistance Unit (AU) of four or fewer for the costs of Temporary Shelter (TS). Prior daily allowance for TS for an AU of four or fewer was \$30 per day. Furthermore, the daily allowance for the fifth and each additional member of an AU shall also be increased from \$7.50 to \$10.00 per day. The TS allowance increase became effective on July 22, 1999. For example, if an otherwise eligible recipient applies for TS on July 20, 1999, the recipient would receive a \$30 daily allowance for TS for July 20 and 21, 1999, on and after July 22, 1999, this same recipient would be entitled to receive a \$40 daily allowance for TS. If an erroneous TS allowance payment has been made due to these new provisions, you should correct the payment as it comes to your attention.

The changes in AB 1111 also modify the length of time in which a recipient can receive Homeless Assistance through an exception from every 24 months to every 12 months. This language applies to temporary and permanent homeless assistance when eligibility is met through an exception. Exceptions criteria has not been changed in this legislation. Exception circumstances must be verified and homeless assistance payments based on these circumstances may not be received more than once in any 12-month period.

AB 1111 also provides County Welfare Departments with the flexibility to require recipients to participate in a Homelessness Avoidance Case Plan, as a condition of eligibility, if a recipient returns a second time within 24 months. Should a county wish to exercise this flexibility, a Homelessness Avoidance Case Plan should be developed with the intent of instructing recipients on how to avoid becoming homeless.

If you have any questions regarding these modifications or the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program please contact Shirley Ruiz at (916) 654-6127.

Sincerely,  
***Original document signed by  
Bruce Wagstaff on 9/21/99***  
BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division

Attachment

c: CWDA  
CSAC