

County Administration Estimate
Fiscal Years 2008-09 and 2009-10
May 2009

The county administration estimate consists of two components: (1) the base and (2) policy changes. The base estimate reflects the allocation to the counties utilizing recent workload data, productivity standards and other cost control components. Policy changes provide adjustments to base costs and reflect the estimated fiscal impact on eligibility costs of recent changes or other functions not incorporated in the base allocation.

BASE ESTIMATE

The base estimate consists of the costs identified for two sub-components: (1) eligibility determinations and (2) staff development. The following paragraphs summarize the essential elements of each. The general fund (GF) sharing ratio is 50 percent.

A. Eligibility Determination

This amount includes the estimated costs for staff and support to be allocated to counties for Medi-Cal eligibility activities. The staff cost is comprised of the following components:

1. Average monthly eligibility worker activity levels for intake and continuing cases for July 2007 through June 2008.
2. Intake and continuing eligibility workers and supervisors for the current and budget years are based on actual activity levels from Fiscal Year 2007-08, the application of productivity standards to the existing workload, and caseload growth from previous years. The allocated number of eligibility workers and supervisors, multiplied by the allowable average salary, determines the estimated staff costs.
3. Support cost (overhead) is a function of staff dollars and a support-to-staff ratio based on historical trends, projected cost growth, and cost control methodology.

B. Staff Development

This amount is used to reimburse county welfare departments for the cost of training Medi-Cal eligibility workers. The Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services required California to modify its cost allocation plan for staff development in order to more closely relate training costs to the appropriate program within the county welfare departments. The amount in this item reflects:

1. Trainer's salaries and benefits.
2. Operating costs.
3. Trainee's salaries and benefits.
4. Travel, per diem, supplies and tuition.
5. Purchase of services.

POLICY CHANGES

Policy changes consist of items such as recent changes in the Medi-Cal Program and their effect on eligibility determinations, Los Angeles County hospital intakes, audit settlements from state and federal audits, court cases, costs of automated projects, and special funding categories.