

To All Stakeholders:

The federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) requires evidence of citizenship and identity for Medi-Cal applicants and beneficiaries who declare that they are citizens or nationals of the United States, except for certain categories of individuals who are exempt. Interim final federal regulations were published in the Federal Register on July 12, 2006 and provide the basis for the implementation of this federal requirement. Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 14011.2., provides state law authority and requirements.

A Draft All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) on the citizenship and identity requirements of the DRA was posted on the Department's website and the Department received over 500 stakeholder comments on the draft ACWDL. The Department also conducted research with regard to implementation of the citizenship and identity requirements of the DRA in other states. The Department has reviewed these comments and pursuant to state law has incorporated as many changes as possible that make it easier for people to comply with this requirement while still meeting the requirements of the federal law.

Attached for your review is the final draft ACWDL with the instructions necessary to implement the citizenship and identity requirements of the DRA. This letter will be posted at the following website: www.dhs.ca.gov/dra. This website contains all forms referenced in the ACWDL and other relevant documents from the federal government on this matter.

Upon request, this letter will be made available in Braille, large print and audiocassette or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write:

Mr. Steven Watson
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch
1501 Capitol Avenue, Suite 71.4001
MS 4607, P.O. Box 997417
Sacramento, CA, 95899-7417
(916) 552-9457
California Relay Services (CRS), 711 or (800) 735-2943

There will be a stakeholder meeting for comments and questions. Due to the timeframe needed to obtain and incorporate comments the Department will not be accepting written comments.

Over the coming weeks, we will work with stakeholders on development of outreach materials to assist applicants and beneficiaries to comply with the DRA citizenship requirements.

The stakeholder meeting will take place on Thursday, February 22, 2007 at the CDHS Auditorium, 1500 Capitol Avenue in Sacramento, CA from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. The Auditorium can accommodate no more than 299 persons.

If you are planning to attend, you will need to register at the Security Desk upon entrance into the building. Photo identification is required.

If you are unable to attend in person, you may phone into the meeting by calling:

Teleconference #: 1-888-398-1687

Passcode: DRA

In consideration of attendees who are sensitive to environmental odors created by chemicals and perfumes, please restrict the use of fragrances at this meeting.

If disability-related accommodations are required for your attendance, please contact:

Mr. Steven Watson at (916) 552-9457, California Relay: 771/1-800-735-2929.

If you use a TTY Teletypewriter, and wish to participate in this meeting via California Relay Services (CRS), dial the CRS at 711 or (800) 735-2943. Tell the CRS Operator that you wish to participate in the conference call. Then give the CRS Operator the USA Toll free telephone number, 1-888-398-1687 and the passcode: DRA.

From this point forward, the operator will provide further instructions.

If you have any questions about the meeting, please feel free to contact Maria Delk at (916) 552 9520 or Bill Walsh at (916) 552-9453.