STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY PETE WILSON, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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February 28, 1994

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County MEDS Coordinators
All County MEDS Security Coordinators

Letter No.: 94-22

IMPLEMENTATION OF AID CODE 4K AND 5K EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR PROBATION AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Effective July 1, 1993, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) implemented Emergency Assistance (EA) for probation cases and on September 1, 1993, EA for child welfare services cases.

EA is a federally funded program under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act which provides services to families in crisis, as specified in the Title IV-A State Plan, for the purpose of alleviating the emergency situation. EA services are available for eligible families for a period of up to six months, or until the emergency is over, whichever is less.

The probation component of the EA program includes juvenile assessment centers, residential treatment facilities, EA foster care for wards, and after care. The child welfare services component of the EA program includes emergency shelter care and EA foster care for dependents and voluntary placements. The EA program allows fifty percent federal financial participation for the costs described above for juvenile probation and child welfare services.

For Medi-Cal purposes, the Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch will be implementing two new aid codes in the upcoming months to be used for the EA foster care portion of the EA program. Aid code 4K will be used to identify probation cases which result in EA foster care placement. Aid code 5K will be used to identify child welfare services cases placed in EA foster care. Please be aware that these aid codes apply <u>only</u> to a portion of the total EA population and are not to be used for children placed outside of EA foster care.

Children receiving EA services who are temporarily detained in an institution, such as a county operated juvenile assessment center or residential treatment facility pending foster care placement, are prohibited from being placed into these new aid codes. These children, if determined Medi-Cal eligible, will remain in aid code 45. Aid codes 4K (probation) and 5K (child welfare services) are to be used only for children entering EA foster care placement. In addition, undocumented individuals are not to be placed in these aid codes. Aid code 58 is the appropriate aid code for these individuals.

Prior to the implementation of aid code 4K and 5K, we ask that counties continue to keep or place 4K or 5K beneficiaries in aid code 45. If they are currently in aid code 40, they may remain in this aid code until the implementation of 4K or 5K. Please note that unless there is an existing Medi-Cal case, counties are required to take a separate application for Medi-Cal purposes as they now do for aid code 45 cases by completing the MC 250. This is a result of instruction by the Health Care Financing Administration that the

EA program does not confer categorical eligibility for Medi-Cal. Eligibility workers rather than Medi-Cal workers will be responsible for reevaluating these cases every six months. Aid codes 4K and 5K will be full scope aid codes.

If you have fiscal questions about the EA program, please contact Ms. Stephanie Davis in the CDSS' Fiscal Policy and Procedures Bureau at (916) 654-0942. Questions about aid codes can be directed to Ms. Sharon Garcia of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch at (916) 657-5327. EA policy questions can be directed to the CDSS' EA/Family Preservation Bureau at (916) 445-2777.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch