STATE OF CALIFORNIA--HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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October 14, 1997

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialist/Liaisons
All County MEDS Coordinators/Liaisons

Letter No.: 97-40

FORMER SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME/STATE SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT (SSI/SSP) "NO LONGER DISABLED" CHILDREN

This letter is to notify the counties of the new Medi-Cal group composed of "No longer disabled children." These are children who lost SSI cash benefits on or after July 1, 1997, due to the new and more strict SSI childhood disability definition contained in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996. This group will be grandfathered into Medicaid effective July 1, 1997, as specified in Section 4913 of the 1997 Balanced Budget Act (BBA) (Public Law [P.L.] 105-33) signed August 5, 1997. This group will be called the PRWORA No Longer Disabled Children Group (PRWORA NLDC).

Children in this new group are entitled to full-scope, zero share-of-cost Medi-Cal as long they have not attained age 18 and they remain eligible for SSI but for the loss of their disability. This entitlement continues even if there is a break in coverage.

There will be approximately 10,000 disabled children who will be discontinued from SSI/SSP between July and February 1998, because they no longer meet the new childhood disability definition. Seventy-five percent of these children are expected to be eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children and the other twenty-five percent will fall into the new PRWORA NLDC group.

On a related issue, the Social Security Administration has already discontinued benefits for approximately 600 children resulting from P.L. 104-193. The Department of Health Services mailed letters to this group informing them that for children who are under age 18, Medi-Cal will automatically continue until further notice. Therefore, these individuals should not be contacting you for Medi-Cal only benefits despite their loss of SSI cash.

Currently, the State is continuing zero share-of-cost Medi-Cal for this new group under an interim process. Once we establish a new aid code and procedures to determine SSI eligibility, ongoing eligibility for this group will become the responsibility of the counties.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Maestas-Sandoval of my staff at (916) 657-1248.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch