STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY GRAY DAVIS, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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December 20, 1999

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons
All County Public Health Directors
All County Mental Health Directors

Letter No.: 99-74

CHANGES TO HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM

In order to provide low-cost comprehensive health, dental and vision insurance to more children without health insurance or no-cost Medi-Cal, several changes have been made to the eligibility requirements of the Healthy Families Program.

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties of changes made to the Healthy Families Program eligibility determinations with the signing of the budget trailer bill (AB 1107) by Governor Gray Davis on July 22, 1999. Changes to the Healthy Families Program took effect as of November 24, 1999.

It is **important** that all workers who interact with CalWORKs and Medi-Cal applicants and beneficiaries know the changes in policies contained in this letter so they can appropriately inform clients of health insurance availability when and if their children are no longer eligible for Medi-Cal because the family no longer receives cash aid through county welfare departments.

The changes are as follows:

- **HIGHER FAMILY INCOME LIMITS**

  The family income limit has been raised to 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) up from 200 percent of FPL (Please see the chart below for the new income eligibility levels for Healthy Families). **Please note there are no changes to the Medi-Cal program income levels.** An errata page will be issued to the Healthy Families/Medi-Cal for Children mail-in application (MC 321 HFP (rev. 3/99)) which includes the revised income figures. The errata will be sent to counties for inclusion in the current joint application as soon as it is available. A revised Healthy Families/ Medi-Cal for Children Mail-in Application and handbook, that includes the expanded eligibility levels, will also be available soon.

Family Size	Birth through Age 1 Healthy Families	Child Age 1 through 5 Healthy Families	Child Age 6 through 18 Healthy Families
1	$1,375-$1,717	$915-$1,717	$688-$1,717
2	$1,845-$2,305	$1,227-$2305	$923-$2,305
3	$2,315-$2,892	$1,540-$2,892	$1,158-$2,892
4	$2,785-$3,480	$1,852-$3,480	$1,393-$3,480
5	$3,255-$4,067	$2,165-$4,067	$1,628-$4,067
6	$3,725-$4655	$2,478-$4,655	$1,863-$4,655

- **CHILDREN UNDER AGE 1**

Due to the increase in the Healthy Families income eligibility levels from 200 to 250 percent FPL, Healthy Families now covers children under age 1 with a family income between 200 to 250 percent FPL. In addition, applicants who would like to apply for Healthy Families coverage of an unborn can apply up to 3 months before the unborn's expected date of birth. Health coverage for the child will begin no later than 13 days after Healthy Families receives documentation of the birth.

- **NEW INCOME DEDUCTIONS**

Healthy Families will now use the income deductions currently used by Medi-Cal eligibility. These deductions are already included in the screening process at Single Point of Entry to aid in determining which program is applicable for the child(ren). See attached bulletin for list of deductions.

- **INCLUSION OF RECENT LEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

Changes in California State law make it possible for the Healthy Families program to enroll for one year recent legal immigrant children who entered the country on or after August 22, 1996. Children must meet all other program eligibility criteria. An INS document with date of entry must be submitted.

- **MINORS**

Applicants no longer have to be at least 18 years old to apply to the Healthy Families Program. Applicants under the age of 18 can now apply for the Healthy Families

Program if they are an emancipated minor, or are not living in the home of their natural or adoptive parent, legal guardian, caretaker relative, foster parent or stepparent. An applicant under the age of 18 also can apply on behalf of his or her child.

- **ERRATA SHEET**

In order to publicize new changes in the Healthy Families Program, DHS has formulated an errata sheet that must be distributed with all existing inventory of the Healthy Families/Medi-Cal for Children and Pregnant Women (HF/MC) application effective November 29, 1999. The errata sheet contains all the changes in the Healthy Families Program that applicants will need at the time of application.

Counties will receive a quantity of the errata in early December for distribution with existing inventory. For additional quantities, counties are instructed to order the errata from the DHS Warehouse. The errata is one single sheet of folded paper explaining the program changes in eleven languages.

- **ORDERING THE ERRATA SHEET**

When ordering HF/MC mail-in applications from the Department of Health Services (DHS) Warehouse, please order identical quantities of the errata sheet (**PUB 406**). The same errata sheet can be used with all language versions of the application.
When ordering from the DHS Warehouse, counties are reminded to specify the publication number and language of the HF/MCC mail-in application.

A notice was sent to enrollment entities and certified application assistants by Richard Heath and Associates informing them of the changes to the Healthy Families program. For your information, a copy of this notice is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding changes to the Healthy Families Program please contact Mr. Edmund Carolan at (916) 657-1064. For questions regarding the errata sheet, please contact Mr. Manuel Urbina at (916) 657-2767.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

ANGELINE MRVA, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosure

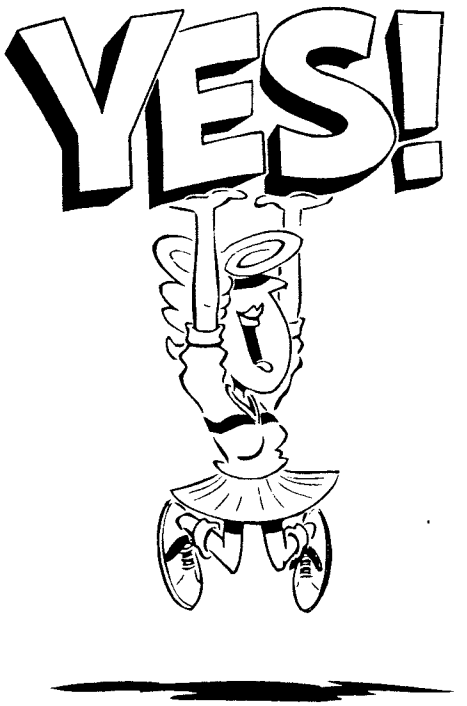
HEALTHY FAMILIES MEDI-CAL FOR CHILDREN

Information Update

Number 6 **11-23-99**

Healthy Families expansion now in effect!

New income limits for Healthy Families



Good news! Federal approval has been received to expand the Healthy Families program. Effective immediately, the following changes are in effect:

- Income eligibility levels for children ages 1 to 19 have been **increased from 200% to 250%** of the Federal Poverty Level.
- **Children under age 1** with a household income between 200% to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level are now eligible for Healthy Families.
- **Medi-Cal income deductions** are now applied when determining eligibility for Healthy Families.

An errata sheet with the new income levels will be inserted into the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal for Children application. If you are interested in getting copies of the errata sheet, please contact RHA toll-free at 1-888-237-6248. A revised Healthy Families and Medi-Cal for Children application and handbook that includes the expanded eligibility levels also will be available soon.

Family Size	Child age 0 to 1 or Pregnant Women Medi-Cal	Child Age 0 to 1 Healthy Families	Child age 1 thru 5 Medi-Cal	Child Age 1 thru 5 Healthy Families	Child age 6 thru 18 Medi-Cal	Child age 6 thru 18 Healthy Families
1	$0 - $1,374	$1,375 - $1,717	$0 - $914	$915 - $1,717	$0 - $687	$688 - $1,717
2	$0 - $1,844	$1,845 - $2,305	$0 - $1,226	$1,227 - $2,305	$0 - $922	$923 - $2,305
3	$0 - $2,314	$2,315 - $2,892	$0 - $1,539	$1,540 - $2,892	$0 - $1,157	$1,158 - $2,892
4	$0 - $2,784	$2,785 - $3,480	$0 - $1,851	$1,852 - $3,480	$0 - $1,392	$1,393 - $3,480
5	$0 - $3,254	$3,255 - $4,067	$0 - $2,164	$2,165 - $4,067	$0 - $1,627	$1,628 - $4,067
6	$0 - $3,724	$3,725 - $4,655	$0 - $2,477	$2,478 - $4,655	$0 - $1,862	$1,863 - $4,655
7	$0 - $4,194	$4,195 - $5,242	$0 - $2,789	$2,790 - $5,242	$0 - $2,097	$2,098 - $5,242
8	$0 - $4,664	$4,665 - $5,830	$0 - $3,102	$3,103 - $5,830	$0 - $2,332	$2,333 - $5,830
9	$0 - $5,134	$5,135 - $6,417	$0 - $3,414	$3,415 - $6,417	$0 - $2,567	$2,568 - $6,417
10	$0 - $5,604	$5,605 - $7,005	$0 - $3,727	$3,728 - $7,005	$0 - $2,802	$2,803 - $7,005

IMPORTANT DISTRIBUTION FOR LINKED CAA STAFF

This informational mailing is sent only to enrollment entities. You are responsible for ensuring that your linked CAA staff receive this information that is critical to correctly completing an application. Your entity may experience an increase in reimbursement denials if your staff is missing accurate eligibility or enrollment information.

NEW: Pre-Enrollment for unborn infants

Children under age 1 with a household income between 200% to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level are now eligible for Healthy Families. Also, applicants who would like to apply for Healthy Families coverage of an unborn infant can apply up to 3 months before the expected date of birth. When assisting applicants who are applying for an unborn child, please provide all the information known about the child at the time of application and write "unborn child" over the column on page A1 of the application that provides information on the unborn child. The revised application will include a box under the Child 1 column that applicants can check to indicate that they are applying for an unborn child.

In order for coverage to begin after the child's birth the applicant must provide one of the following:

1. a birth certificate provided by a hospital or other health care facility, **OR**
2. a signed statement by the health practitioner who presided over the delivery, **OR**
3. an equivalent document.

The birth certificate, statement, or equivalent document must include the child's name, place and date of birth, gender, and expected date of release from the hospital. Healthy Families must receive the documentation within 30 days of the child's birth or the applicant will have to submit a new application. Health coverage for the child will begin no later than 13 days after Healthy Families receives documentation of the child's birth.

NEW: HF eligibility now uses Medi-Cal deductions

Healthy Families and Medi-Cal now use the same income eligibility rules for the treatment of income and deductions. This means that Healthy Families will use Medi-Cal income deductions. The following deductions will be subtracted (when applicable) from the families gross income:

- A $90 deduction for each person working, receiving State Disability Insurance or Workers Compensation;
- A maximum of $200 in child care expenses for each child under the age of 2, or $175 for each child age 2 or older or a disabled dependent of any age;
- The amount of court-ordered child support or alimony paid monthly;
- A $50 deduction if court-ordered child support or alimony is received.

Documentation of the income deductions, except for the work expense deduction, must be sent with the application. For more information on what documents may be needed, please see page 6 of the application.

Reminder: use the appropriate process to request reimbursement

The new Healthy Families and Medi-Cal for Children application contains a section for EE and CAA information (see page A-3, section 9, box 53).

In order to receive the application assistant reimbursement fee, this section **MUST** be correctly and legibly **completed.** This means that **every line must be filled in** with the appropriate information, including the correct date. Please see the example below:

SECTION 9: Reimbursement for Application Assistance. For CAA use only.

53	I certify I had help in completing this form from the CAA listed below. This CAA's help was FREE of charge. The state will not issue a reimbursement to the EE unless Section 9 is completely and correctly filled out at the time this application is submitted.				
Applicant Signature	Maria Ramirez			Date	11/29/99
CAA Signature	John Foster	CAA# 0001234 5A	EE # 12345	Date	11/29/99

Easy access to a "Quick Guide" on public charge questions

To download the information from the Internet:

1. Go to http://www.ins.usdoj.gov.
2. Click on Public Affairs.
3. Click on Public Information.
4. Under "Please select a topic" select Public Charge.
5. Scroll down to Public Charge.
6. Select "A Quick Guide to Public Charge and Receipt of Public Benefits 10/18/99."