STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

GRAY DAVIS, *Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
714/744 P Street
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320
(916) 657-0258

March 23, 2001

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

Letter No.: 01-20

RICKY RAY HEMOPHILIA RELIEF FUND ACT PAYMENTS ARE EXEMPT FROM CONSIDERATION AS INCOME AND PROPERTY UNDER ALL MEDI-CAL PROGRAMS UNDER TITLE XIX

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties that in accordance with Section 201 of the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act of 1998, payments made from any fund established pursuant to this act shall not be considered property, and shall be considered exempt income, when determining eligibility for, or the amount of benefits under, a State plan of medical assistance approved under Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This act provides for compassionate payments with regards to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus, due to contaminated blood products in the process of medical treatment.

Therefore, as soon as a county becomes aware of such a case that may have been denied or discontinued due to the receipt of such payments and the delay in issuing this letter, counties must rescind the denial or discontinuance and establish eligibility as otherwise eligible.

Regulations and procedures will be updated at a later date. If you have any questions on this issue, please contact Kim McCord of my staff at (916) 657-3723.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

SHAR SCHROEPFER, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch