State of California—Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Health Services

California
Department of
Health Services

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Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

December 24, 2003

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALIST/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

Letter No.: 03-60

SUBJECT: SUBSTANTIAL GAINFUL ACTIVITY AMOUNT INCREASED FROM $800 PER MONTH TO $810 PER MONTH FOR NON-BLIND INDIVIDUALS. THIS CHANGE IS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2004.

The purpose of this letter is to notify counties of the most recent change to the federal Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) amount. SGA rules do not apply to legally blind persons who meet the Supplemental Security Income criteria or to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who return to work after disability has been approved. As a reminder, SGA is the first consideration in determining whether an applicant will be disabled under federal disability rules. A person who performs SGA is not considered disabled, even if a severe physical or mental impairment exists. The exception to this is the 250 percent Working Disabled Program. Please refer to All County Welfare Directors Letter 02-34, for more information regarding this program. Further, for work activity to be substantial, it need not necessarily be performed on a full-time basis.

If you have questions regarding program policies on SGA, please direct them to Mr. Terry Durham at (916) 552-9483.

Original signed by

Richard Brantingham for
Beth Fife, Chief
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