State of California—Health and Human Services Agency

Department of Health Services

California Department of Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

March 2, 2005

Letter No.: 05-04

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPEICALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL QMB/SLMB/QI COUNTY COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: THE EXTENSION OF THE QUALIFYING INDIVIDUALS-1 SUNSET DATE TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2005
(Ref: All County Welfare Directors Letters Nos. 98-08, 98-15, 98-47, 98-60-, 99-14, 99-43, 99-61, 03-02, 03-20, 03-51, 04-11, and 04-38)

This letter notifies counties of the extension of the Qualifying Individuals-1 (QI-1) program through September 30, 2005.

The QI-1 program provides payment of the Medicare Part B premium for individuals with income below 135 percent of the federal poverty level. The QI-1 program was originally scheduled to sunset December 31, 2002, but Congress has granted a number of temporary extensions. On December 8, 2004, Senate Bill 2618 was signed into law, which extends the QI-1 sunset date to September 30, 2005. The new law allocates $400 million in funding for the program between October 1, 2004, and September 30, 2005.

Because the QI-1 program has been extended many times, counties are to continue accepting applications and determining eligibility for the QI-1 program until the Department of Health Services (DHS) notifies them that the QI-1 program has been discontinued. If the QI-1 program is discontinued, DHS will: notify the county of the termination date; discontinue the QI-1 eligibility reporting on the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System; discontinue the Medicare Part B buy-in; send a notice of discontinuance to the All County Welfare Directors Letter No.:

1501 Capitol Avenue, Suite 71 4001, MS 4607, P.O. Box 997417
Sacramento, CA, 95899-7417
(916) 552-9430 Fax (916) 552-9425

QI-1; and send the counties a listing of discontinued QI-1s so that the county systems can be updated.

DHS will continue to keep county staff updated on the status of the QI-1 program. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Ms. Vicki Partington, at (916) 552-9496 or email Vparting@dhs.ca.gov.

Original signed by

Tameron Mitchell, R.D., M.P.H., Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch