STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 445-1912

September 26, 1980

To: All County Welfare Directors
All County Data Processing Officers

Letter No. 80-35

REFUGEE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS -- UPDATE

All County Welfare Directors Letter No. 80-24 provided information on the federal Refugee Act of 1980. Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual Letter No. 36 issued formal instructions to counties on revised reporting of refugees to the Department.

This letter is to provide more detail on certain of these instructions and to provide advance information on developments which have occurred in the past few weeks.

1. In addition to Indochinese and Cuban refugees groups, East European/Russian refugees are a valid refugee group which must be reported to DHS. This group is composed of refugees whose country of origin is Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania or the U.S.S.R. Counties do not need to perform a file search to identify current Medi-Cal recipients who are eligible as refugees within this group. However, such individuals must be identified and reported to the Department at the time of the quarterly Medi-Cal-only status report for AFDC-linked and MI categories, and at the time of the annual redetermination for ABD-linked categories.

2. An additional transaction code is to be added to the computerized MC 255. This code, the alpha character H, is to be used to report an individual who had been reported to DHS as a refugee in error. Instructions provided previously for "add" and "delete" remain in effect.

3. American born children of refugee parents derive eligibility from their parents' status. Therefore, date of entry of an American born child is the date of entry of the most recently entered refugee parent.

4. The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement has now authorized cash assistance to two new refugee groups. In order to comply with its instructions, we are adding two new aid codes to identify the new Refugee Cash Assistance categories. These are aid code 03 for the "East European/Russian" category and aid code 06 for the "Other" category. The "Other" category includes Cubans who entered the United States <u>as refugees</u> on or after October 1, 1978. Since the Federal Government requires the state to implement this program by December 1, 1980, your computer system should be prepared to accept these two aid codes by that date.

Note: "Cuban/Haitian Entrants" are not eligible under this program because the Federal Government does not currently consider them refugees. They are to be treated in the same way as any other alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

The Departments of Health Services and Social Services (DSS) intend to issue a joint All County Letter which will provide the counties with information on the steps required to implement the expanded refugee cash aid program. In the meantime, both Departments are working to officially implement this program. DSS is drafting proposed emergency regulations to add language implementing the new refugee cash categories to the Specialized Programs Manual. DHS is revising Title 22, California Administrative Code, Sections 50257 and 50259, and Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual Procedures 5C, "Medi-Cal Aid Codes" and 5F "Refugee Assistance Reporting Requirements". The information in this letter will be put in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Procedures Manual.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medi-Cal field representative.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Barbara V. Carr, Acting Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Field Representatives

Expiration date: January 1, 1981