OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY
GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor
ARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
4 P STREET
NTO, CA 95814

August 22, 1985

To: All County Welfare Directors
County Administrative Officers

Letter No. 85- 56

REFUGEE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (RDP)/MEDI-CAL

Reference: Department of Social Services All County Letter 85-61 and 85-75

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding the new Refugee Demonstration Project (RDP) and related Medi-Cal benefits.

Effective July 1, 1985, California implemented a statewide RDP to run for three years. All counties in which there are DSS-funded or Targeted Assistance refugee employment/training funded programs will participate in the RDP. The RDP is 100 percent federally funded through the use of Federal Refugee Resettlement Program (RDP cash, medical, social services and Targeted Assistance funds, and Title IV-A (cash) and Title XIX (medical) funds. Federal authority for this demonstration project is contained in 8 United States Code (USC) Section 1522(e)(7) (aka, the Fish/Wilson Amendment) and State enabling legislation is contained in Senate Bill 2035, Chapter 1352, Statutes of 1984.

The following aid codes shall be used for RDP cases:

Code 77 - Federal AFDC-FG refugee cases aided under the RDP (RDP-FG).
Code 78 - Federal AFDC-U refugee cases aided under the RDP (RDP-U).

RDP Sanctions/Discontinuances and Effect on Continuing Medi-Cal

The RDP is a three-year project under which new refugee applicants who have at least six months of time eligibility remaining (as of 2/01/85), and who would otherwise be eligible for Federal AFDC, will be eligible for the same level of cash assistance that they would receive under Federal AFDC, but will be subject to the requirements of the RDP. Those requirements parallel those of the Federal RCA Program except for sanctions for noncooperation/nonparticipation and job refusals without good cause which will parallel those of the Federal AFDC-U and FG Program.

Sanctions for RDP clients shall be the same as in the AFDC program. Thus in an RDP-FG case only the caretaker relative will be sanctioned for three payment months for the first offense and six payment months for second and subsequent offenses. Medi-Cal eligibililty automatically continues during the sanction period for all members including the sanctioned caretaker of the RDP-FG assistance unit.

The RDP-U cases shall likewise be sanctioned for three and six payment months, except that the entire assistance unit will be under sanction during the penalty period. Medi-Cal eligibility automatically continues during the sanction period only for members of the assistance unit under the age of 21.

Medi-Cal benefits will continue to be provided under aid code 77 or 78 during the sanction period. However, county case workers should flag these cases in order to ensure that as these sanction periods come to term, timely notices are mailed regarding discontinuance/continuing eligibility in accordance with Title 22, California Administrative Code (CAC), Sections 50179 and 50179.5

There shall be no sanction period attached to the failure/refusal of the nonexempt caretaker relative or principal earner parent to register with the CIU or EDD. The RDP case shall be ineligible for the RDP cash program, however, an evaluation for Medi-Cal only eligibility is required. RDP clients discontinued from cash aid are eligible for continuing Medi-Cal at zero share of cost (SOC) under aid code 38 until such time as their eligibility for Medi-Cal only can be evaluated (22,CAC, 50179.5 and 50183).

RDP cases whose cash grant is discontinued due to an increase in earnings or hours of employment, are eligible for four months continuing Medi-Cal at zero SOC under aid code 39.

Additionally, if the RDP cash grant is discontinued due wholly or in part to the collection or increased collection of child or spousal support, the RDP recipients are eligible for four months continuing Med-Cal at zero SOC under aid code 54.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is currently working with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop notice of action forms that include appropriate Medi-Cal messages. Until these preprinted forms become available, counties are instructed to add appropriate Medi-Cal messages to existing forms (see DSS ACL 85-75, dated 7/9/85).

For refugee tracking purposes, if members of the RDP case have previously been reported to DHS on the MC255 (Refugee Cross Reference Transaction form) it will not be necessary for the county to complete another MC255 with the new aid codes. However, if the county is unsure whether or not members of the case have been reported previously, an MC255 must be submitted to DHS.

As new information becomes available, the DHS and DSS will continue to issue instructions in an effort to keep counties informed at the earliest possible time. In the interim, should questions arise regarding RDP cash based Medi-Cal, please contact Maxine Forster, Medi-Cal Program Consultant at (916) 324-4969 or ATSS 8-454-4969.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Doris Z. Soderberg, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Program Consultants
Medi-Cal Liaisons

Expiration Date: June 30, 1988