STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

December 12, 1986

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

Letter No.: 86- 75

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDS CHANGES FOR CONSOLIDATED OMNIBUS RECONCILIATION ACT (COBRA)

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER (ACWDL) NO. 86-68

This letter is to advise all counties of the changes being made to the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) to accommodate the change in Medicaid coverage for federally eligible Title IV-E, Adoption Assistance Program (AAP) and Foster Care Program (AFDC-FC) children who reside out-of-state, per the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

ACWDL No. 86-68 notified county welfare departments of the partial implementation of the COBRA. This Act requires that all federally eligible Title IV-E, AAP and AFDC-FC children who reside out of the placing state will receive Medicaid from the state in which they reside. Counties were also given instructions as to the action to be taken which included notification of out-of-state adoptive/foster families that their adopted/foster children were eligible to receive Medicaid from the state in which they were residing, and that Medi-Cal would be discontinued as of December 31, 1986.

Although Medi-Cal will be terminated for these children, it has been determined by the Department of Health Services (DHS) that the MEDS records for the Title IV-E, AAP and AFDC-FC children affected by COBRA, will remain in <u>active</u> status, but, no Medi-Cal card will be issued.

The following changes to the MEDS program have been initiated to implement the above decision:

1. The DHS will suppress the issuance of Medi-Cal cards for aid codes 03, 42, 43, 45 and 46 when the zip code on the MEDS record is less than 900 or more than 961 in the first three digits. This action will become effective to suppress card issuance for January, 1987 month of eligibility and will be an ongoing edit.

2. The eligibility status on the MEDS record will continue to show "001". There will be no indication that a card was not issued on MEDS, but the Eligibility History File (EHF) will not be updated to indicate card issuance.

3. EW15 and 45 transactions will be allowed on the MEDS records should the need arise to issue a Medi-Cal card to a child who returns to California.

4. Daily transactions submitted to update the MEDS record will not cause card issuance unless there is an address change to restore a California residence or an aid code change.

The above changes to MEDS are being used as an interim process. Other means of identifying the Title IV-E, AAP and AFDC-FC out-of-state records, such as new aid codes, will be developed to establish a permanent process to identify these children. Counties may wish to flag these cases so that they may be readily identified when the new aid codes become effective.

If you have any questions on the MEDS changes, please contact your State MEDS liaison. Policy questions should be directed to Sandra Bierer at (916) 324-4971.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: MEDS Liaisons
Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: March 31, 1987