STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

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

October 13, 1988

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers

Letter No.: 88-83

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF ELIGIBILITY PERIOD FOR REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The state had been notified by the federal office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) that effective October 1, 1988, duration of Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) will be reduced from 18 months to 12 months for all currently eligible refugees in the United States including those who entered prior to the October 1 effective date. ORR anticipates this reduction will provide refugees with stronger incentives to gain employment, decrease the likelihood of unnecessary welfare dependency and help reduce federal expenditures to meet the Balanced Budget Control Act.

Counties should immediately identify all RMA eligibles affected by this reduction. Those terminated from RMA must be sent a timely notice of action. Please use form NA991 (8/88) RCA/ECA which was previously transmitted to you by Department of Social Service's ACL No. 88-117. We realize that due to the short timeframes provided with this change many counties will be unable to identify and cease RMA recipients in a timely manner to afford the required 10 day notice. Therefore, in those cases the discontinuation date will be effective October 31, 1988.

Please note that refugees terminated from RMA must be evaluated for Medi-Cal eligibility under the programs listed in California Code of Regulations 50201.

Refugee Tracking System reports (CM-RFG006-008) are being modified to reflect the change in time eligibility. Consolidated Error Reports (CER) for code 91 warnings will be sent 9 months after the date of entry, instead of 15 months. CER's for code 92 warnings will be sent when the date of entry is greater than 12 months, instead of 18 months.

If you have further questions, please contact John Richmond at (916) 323-6454.

Sincerely,

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: October 13, 1989