STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY PETE WILSON, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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December 11, 1991
Letter No.: 91-116

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF TIME ELIGIBILITY FOR REFUGEE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (RMA)

This is to formalize the Electronic Message Sent to all counties on October 25, 1991.

The federal Office of Refugee Resettlement has reduced time-eligibility for RMA benefits from 12 to 8 months.

New RMA Applicants

The federal directive for Refugees who were not receiving RMA as of September 30, 1991, was effective October 1, 1991. However, due to the delay in the distribution of this instruction, counties have until November 30, 1991, but no later than this date, to implement the new directive. This means that all new applicants after October, 1991, will be subject to the eight-month time eligibility.

Ongoing RMA Beneficiaries

For Refugees who were receiving RMA as of September 30, 1991, the change to an 8-month time eligibility is effective November 30, 1991. This means that, for Refugees who were on RMA as of September 30, 1991, and who will exceed eight (8) months time eligibility as of November 30, 1991, counties must give timely notice in November, in order that benefits may be terminated as of the end of November.

Please keep in mind that eligibility for transitional RMA is limited to four (4) months or until the end of the 8-month time-eligibility period, whichever ends first. The discontinuance dates indicated above are also applicable to the transitional RMA beneficiaries.

Please use Code of California Regulations (CCR) Section 50257(d)(2), which provides that DHS may shorten time-eligibility for RMA based on the availability of federal funds, in the notices of action to discontinue refugees who become ineligible due to the shortened time-eligibility period.

If there are any questions, please contact Elena Lara at (916) 657-0712.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch