DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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amento, CA 94234-7320
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September 12, 1997

Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch Information Letter No.: I-97-20

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

ALIEN INDIVIDUALS AND SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME/STATE SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT (SSI/SSP)

On August 5, 1997, President Bill Clinton signed the 1997 Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act. The purpose of this letter is to inform counties that Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, has been amended to maintain SSI/SSP benefits for aged, blind, and disabled Qualified alien individuals who were receiving benefits prior to August 22, 1996.

In conformity with the law, the Department of Health Services (Department) has canceled the planned conversion of approximately 200,000 alien individuals in the state of California from categorical Medi-Cal benefits through SSI/SSP status to the medically needy program at the counties.

According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), a small group of Not Qualified aliens, approximately 30,000 nationwide, will remain on SSI/SSP benefits through September 1998. The Department will inform counties at that time whether or not we are going to be required to transition our portion of these Not Qualified alien individuals into the medically needy program. If there are any changes which will impact the scope of Medi-Cal benefits to Not Qualified aliens, the Department will inform counties in a future All County Welfare Directors Letter. Also, when finalized, a list of categories which will define "Qualified" and "Not Qualified" aliens will be provided to the counties in a future letter.

In addition, Qualified aliens who were residing in the United States on August 22, 1996, and who become blind or disabled after that date may apply for SSI benefits. According to SSA rules, an aged individual may apply for SSI benefits as a disabled person.

If you have any questions regarding SSI/SSP redeterminations of any category of aliens, please contact Ms. Diana Perez of my staff at (916) 654-2279.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch