



JENNIFER KENT
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

March 1, 2017

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 17-06
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Unmarried Pregnant Women Under Age 21 Income Disregard Program

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding the eligibility for full-scope or Pregnancy Related Medi-Cal for the unmarried pregnant woman who is under age 21, is not eligible for any other mandatory or optional categorically needy coverage group, and is either: (a) living with her parents and is not going to file a tax return for the taxable year; or (b) going to be claimed as a tax dependent by her parents in the taxable year.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has elected to disregard all household income for unmarried pregnant women who are under age 21, and who meet the other requirements described above, under section (§) 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(I)) and 42 C.F.R. § 435.222. As a result, there will not be a determination of income required for Medi-Cal eligibility for this group of women.

The California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS) shall identify this population and assign eligibility status in aid code M7 for individuals with satisfactory immigration status and aid code M8 for individuals without satisfactory immigration status who are eligible under this coverage group. The CalHEERS system shall communicate to the Statewide Automated Welfare Systems when an individual is determined eligible to the Unmarried Pregnant Women Under 21 Income Disregard Program.

Impact on New Applicants

Applications received after August 1, 2016, for pregnant women under age 21 who meet the requirements stated in the first paragraph will be eligible for full-scope or Pregnancy Related Medi-Cal, as long as all other eligibility criteria is met.

All County Welfare Directors Letter No.: 17-06
Page 2
March 1, 2017

Impact on Current Beneficiaries

Eligibility for this income disregard will be prospective.

If a pregnant beneficiary under age 21 reports a change in income or if other eligibility is lost at renewal due to increased income, the beneficiary should be evaluated for the Unmarried Pregnant Women Under 21 Income Disregard Program if she is not eligible for any other Medi-Cal program.

Other Impacts

If a beneficiary under this program reports a marriage, she becomes ineligible and reevaluation for other programs shall occur.

Beneficiaries of this program receive coverage during pregnancy through their postpartum period. After the postpartum period, the beneficiary's eligibility is reevaluated for Medi-Cal and other insurance affordability programs.

A pregnant woman under age 21 who files her own taxes **and** lives with her parents is not eligible for this income disregard.

A pregnant woman under age 21 who does not live with her parents **and** is not going to be claimed as a tax dependent by her parents is not eligible for this income disregard.

Note: Beneficiaries of this program who are under 19 years of age are eligible for Continuous Eligibility for Children (CEC). For more information on CEC, please refer to ACWDL 14-05.

If you have any questions or if we can provide further information, please contact Ms. Cynthia Cannon, AGPA, Access Unit, at (916) 552-9499 or by email at Cynthia.Cannon@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sandra Williams, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division