April 29, 2009

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No. : 09-22
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALIST/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: INCOME EXEMPTION FOR THE INCREASE TO BOTH REGULAR AND EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Division B, Title II, Section 2002 (h) provides for a Federal Stimulus increase to both regular and extended Unemployment Benefits by $25 a week. The increases will begin with the week of February 22, 2009, for both new and existing claims. The monthly equivalent to the $25 weekly increase shall be exempt income and, as such, shall not be considered for purposes of determining Medi-Cal eligibility or share-of-cost (SOC).

To be eligible for the additional Unemployment Compensation Benefit payments an individual must:

- Have a regular Unemployment Compensation Benefits claim, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) claim, or federal extension claim that began on or before December 20, 2009, or
- Submit a continued claim form for a week or weeks beginning on or after February 22, 2009 and;
- Be eligible for at least $1 in Unemployment Compensation Benefits, and
- Meet all other criteria.
Any individuals who have a claim effective December 20, 2009, and have not exhausted all rights to regular compensation can receive the additional $25 weekly benefit up to June 30, 2010.

Effective immediately, applicants/beneficiaries or representatives who report the receipt of the $25 Federal Stimulus increase in their Unemployment Compensation Benefit as described above, shall be required to provide verification sufficient to identify the nature of the increase in order to receive the income exemption. (See enclosed sample).

Counties shall rescind any discontinuance, denial or SOC notice of action (NOA) issued as they become aware of any case that was adversely affected as a result of the delay in implementing this provision of the ARRA. Counties shall then retroactively re-determine eligibility and SOC as appropriate and reissue NOAs.

If you have questions regarding this issue, please call Mr. Craig Yagi, of my staff, at (916) 552-9522.

Original Signed By

Vivian Auble, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division

Enclosure