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Director

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



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

November 24, 2009

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 09-55
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS TO FILIPINO VETERANS MADE FROM
THE FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY COMPENSATION FUND

The purpose of this letter is to provide instructions to the counties regarding Division A, Title X, Section (§) 1002 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 signed by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009. This section provides a one-time payment from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund in the following amounts:

- \$9,000 for eligible persons who are not a citizen of the United States
- \$15,000 for eligible persons who are citizens of the United States

In the event an eligible person filed a claim for benefits and dies before payment is made, the payment shall be made to the surviving spouse, if any.

Note: The one-year claim for benefits application period ends February 16, 2010. Therefore, qualified individuals may receive payments after February 16, 2010.

Any payment made pursuant to Title X, § 1002 of the ARRA, shall be considered exempt as income in the month received and may not be used to compute Medi-Cal share-of-cost (SOC). These payments are also exempt as property to the extent that the funds are retained and kept identifiable. If the funds have been commingled with other monies, it is the applicant/beneficiary's responsibility to maintain records or other means of distinguishing the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund payments.

All interest earned on these payments must be considered as unearned income in the month received and be used to compute the SOC.

The applicant/beneficiary is responsible for verification of these payments by providing grant award letters, claim forms or other documents. If the applicant/beneficiary can not produce such documentation, have the applicant/beneficiary or their legal representative call the Department of Veterans Affairs at (800) 827-1000 to obtain written verification documentation.

Due to the delay in implementing this change, the county shall rescind any incorrect discontinuance, denial, or SOC Notice of Action (NOA) due to receipt of payments from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund. The county shall retroactively reevaluate eligibility and SOC as appropriate and issue corrected NOAs whenever:

- A case is known to the county to have been denied or discontinued in error, or
- As soon as a case is brought to the county's attention, or
- When reopening a case which was closed since February 17, 2009.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Mr. Harold Higgins at (916) 552-9522 or by e-mail at harold.higgins@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By

Vivian Auble, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division