STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

GRAY DAVIS, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
714/744 P Street
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320
(916) 657-2941

November 19, 1999

Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch Information Letter No.: I99-18

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

LATINO COALITION FOR A HEALTHY CALIFORNIA V. BELSHÉ MEDIA RELEASES

The purpose of this All County Information Notice is to advise counties that the enclosed press release and public service announcements (PSAs) will be provided to newspaper and radio media throughout the State for release some time between November 8, 1999 and November 11, 1999. We are releasing the enclosed press release and PSAs to comply with the court order in the case of Latino Coalition For A Healthy California v. Belshé. Counties will receive a separate notification via Electronic Mail when the enclosed press release and PSAs are released to the Media. Detailed instructions for complying with the settlement of the Latino Coalition For A Healthy California v. Belshé lawsuit are included in All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) 99-45.

If you have any questions regarding this information notice or the requirements of ACWDL 99-45, please contact Mr. John Zapata of my staff at (916) 657-0725.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Angeline Mrva, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosures

RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Topic: Immigrants denied Medi-Cal benefits may still be eligible for them.

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If you are an immigrant who was denied or discontinued from Medi-Cal only because you had a border crossing card or short-term visa, you may be eligible to get Medi-Cal again. You can have your eligibility reviewed. For more information, contact your county welfare department.

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If you are an immigrant who was denied or discontinued from Medi-Cal only because you had a border crossing card or short-term visa, you may be eligible to get Medi-Cal again. You may have already received a letter explaining this policy. You have until December 31, 2000 to request a review of your eligibility. For more information, contact your county welfare department.

ENCLOSURE

News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

NUMBER: 36-99
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
http://www.dhs.ca.gov

DATE: November 10, 1999
CONTACT: Ken August
(916) 657-3064

STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES IMMIGRANTS DENIED MEDI-CAL MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR REINSTATEMENT

SACRAMENTO - Immigrants who were denied or discontinued from Medi-Cal solely because they possessed a border crossing card or short-term visa may be eligible to get those benefits reinstated, the California Department of Health Services (DHS) announced today.

Under a policy that took effect in February 1997, some immigrants classified as aliens were denied or discontinued from Medi-Cal benefits solely because they possessed one of those documents. That policy was reversed in October 1998 as a result of a decision in a lawsuit filed in San Francisco County Superior Court by the Latino Coalition For A Healthy California against Kim Belshé, former DHS director.

Under the terms of the lawsuit, individuals who were denied or discontinued from Medi-Cal solely because they possessed a border crossing card or short-term visa can have their eligibility reviewed again. DHS is required, to the extent possible, to identify all individuals denied Medi-Cal benefits based solely on the application of former All County Welfare Director Letter No. 97-06 and to mail each identified person an individualized notice.

If found eligible, any Medi-Cal benefits that were denied or discontinued while the policy was in effect will be reinstated. Individuals who want to have their eligibility reviewed under the terms of this ruling have until December 31, 2000 to request a review by their respective counties. Interested individuals should contact their local county welfare department for more information.

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