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Department of Health Care Services



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GOVERNOR

March 20, 2015

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 15-09

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: County Participation in the USDA Medicaid Direct Certification
Demonstration Project

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is to notify participating or interested counties that agreements may be entered into with their corresponding Local Education Agency (LEA) for the purpose of sharing data at the district level for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Demonstration Project to Evaluate Direct Certification with Medicaid (Demonstration Project).

Background

LEAs and counties currently perform a monthly direct certification match of student enrollment data, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/CalFresh) data, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/CalWORKs) data, to identify and automatically enroll eligible children for free school meals. The USDA Demonstration Project allows participating LEAs to request counties' participation for an additional direct certification match with Medi-Cal data. Children who are identified in the direct certification match with Medi-Cal data will also be automatically enrolled for free school meals.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has partnered with the California Department of Education (CDE) to participate in the USDA Demonstration Project within the 2014-15 school year.

Privacy and Security Agreements

Counties have signed Medi-Cal Data Privacy and Security Agreements (PSAs), dated 2013, with DHCS in order to ensure the privacy and security of Medi-Cal Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Counties may choose to share Medi-Cal data with LEAs for the purpose of participating in the USDA Demonstration Project; however, the participating or interested counties must adhere to their respective signed 2013 DHCS PSA, Section XII – County Department’s Agents and Subcontractors, and enter into an agreement with the requesting LEAs to impose the same PSA restrictions and conditions. DHCS will not be a party to the agreements between the counties and the LEAs due to the inherent design of the local-level match; however, counties may work with LEAs directly on the agreements and to determine the business requirements.

Local-Level Direct Certification with Medicaid Process

While also adhering to State and Federal privacy and security requirements, LEAs may conduct local matches with counties, using student enrollment data and Medi-Cal Program participant data. DHCS encourages counties interested in participating in the USDA Demonstration Project, to work with their corresponding LEAs to determine the appropriate direct certification process and the expected roles and responsibilities of each party.

If you have any questions, or if we can provide further information, please contact Mr. Daniel Nguyen at (916) 327-0417 or by email at Daniel.Nguyen@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By:

Alice Mak, Acting Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division