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Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: February 9, 2022

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: 22-06

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

SUBJECT: USE OF THE VERIFY CURRENT INCOME SERVICE (VCI) THROUGH THE CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE ELIGIBILITY, ENROLLMENT, AND RETENTION SYSTEM (CALHEERS)

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is to provide direction on the use Equifax's Verify Current Income (VCI) Service response through the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System (CalHEERS) upon the implementation of Change Request (CR) 164426.

VCI and Reasonable Compatibility

When verifying income for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medi-Cal financial eligibility, CalHEERS compares the self-attestations made by applicants or beneficiaries on the application or renewal forms to available electronic data sources through the Federal Data Services Hub (FDSH). The attestation and data source are considered "reasonably compatible" if they are either at or below the eligibility threshold. Once the self-attested income information is entered in CalHEERS or the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS), CalHEERS will attempt to verify the income. If reasonably compatible, then the self-attested information is considered electronically verified (see [ACWDL 21-04](#) for further guidance).

Updates contained in CR 164426 will integrate the VCI Service into existing e-verification sources in CalHEERS in an attempt to electronically verify attested income. Once implemented, the VCI Service will be available for CalHEERS to use the information received in the same way as other electronic verification sources already available as part of the reasonable compatibility check. Additionally, if an applicant or beneficiary is found within Equifax's VCI Service data base, the response will then be sent back to the system that originated the request through the Determination Eligibility Response (DER) via the electronic health information transfer.

Equifax's VCI Service varies from other FDSH sources in that Equifax will also provide county eligibility workers near real-time information for any applicant or beneficiary found within Equifax's database such as:

- Employer name,
- Employee Status Code (whether the individual is currently active with the employer or not),
- Original hire date and/or end date when the employee left service with employer, and
- Current income information that includes;
 - Employer or organization name,
 - Pay period including end date for pay period,
 - Income amount, and
 - The number of hours per pay period.

At this time, counties should treat VCI in the same way they would any other income electronic verification source from the FDSH. The Department of Health Care Services will be issuing further guidance in the near future on the usage of received VCI Service data for verification and ex parte purposes for MAGI and Non-Modified Adjusted Gross Income (Non-MAGI) Medi-Cal only cases. Until such guidance is published, counties may direct policy questions to the contact information below.

Note: Guidance in this MEDIL does not supersede policy found in [ACWDL 18-21](#) regarding the use of the commercial income verification service through Equifax's The Work Number for Medi-Cal only cases.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Janis Kimball at (916) 345-8060 or by email at Janis.Kimball@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By

Sandra Williams, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division