

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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March 27, 2000

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

Letter No.: 00-15

CENSUS INCOME AND CONTINUING MEDI-CAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

During the next few months, the Census Bureau will be performing its activities. The California Complete Count Campaign office informs us that many who have been hired as census workers are on CalWORKs. Census wages can range to \$15.50 per hour, which may cause some families to no longer be eligible for CalWORKs. Please note that even though the Census income will not be exempted from CalWORKs, this income would be eligible for the applicable earned income disregards, which would allow many families to remain eligible for CalWORKs. Additionally, we have learned that the majority of the Census jobs will only last six to eight weeks, and if the high earnings last for no longer than a two-month period, the CalWORKs case would be suspended rather than discontinued. For cases that are in suspense, the families will continue to receive their Medi-Cal benefits.

This All County Letter requests that you take extra measures to inform any families that are discontinued from CalWORKs, that they will have their Medi-Cal benefits continued. We also ask that redeterminations as to whether these families will be eligible for Section 1931(b), Transitional Medi-Cal or any other Medi-Cal program be done expeditiously using the information within the CalWORKs or other case records. Please do not request that additional information be provided by the family, unless absolutely necessary. Though census income will not be exempted for Medi-Cal, the majority will still be eligible for one of the Medi-Cal programs.

We appreciate all your ongoing efforts in providing the information about continuing Medi-Cal benefits for those transitioning from CalWORKs to self-sufficiency. We make this additional request in order to ensure continued access to medical services for those families impacted by the Census income; due to its short range nature, it may cause special concerns to families on how receipt of the Census income may impact their ability to obtain continuing health coverage.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 657-2941. If you have any questions about specific Medi-Cal income issues, please call Dave Rappolee of my staff at (916) 657-0163.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Angeline Mrva, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch