November 3, 2005

TO:　　　　ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS　　　　Letter No.: 05-37
　　　　　　ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
　　　　　　ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
　　　　　　ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
　　　　　　ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
　　　　　　ALL COUNTY QMB/SLMB/QI COORDINATORS

SUBJECT:　THE EXTENSION OF THE QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL 1 PROGRAM
　　　　　　SUNSET DATE TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2007
　　　　　　(Reference All County Welfare Directors Letter Nos.: 98-08, 98-15, 98-47,
　　　　　　98-60, 99-14, 99-43, 99-61, 03-02, 03-20, 03-51, 04-11, and 04-38)

This letter notifies counties that on October 19, 2005, H.R. 3971 was signed into law, which extends the Qualifying Individuals-1 (QI-1) sunset date to September 30, 2007.

The QI-1 program provides the State payment of the Medicare Part B premium for individuals with income below 135 percent of the federal poverty level. The QI-1 program was originally scheduled to sunset December 31, 2002, but Congress has granted a number of temporary extensions.

Because the QI-1 program has been extended many times, counties are to continue accepting applications and determining eligibility for the QI-1 program until the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) notifies them that the QI-1 program has been discontinued. If the QI-1 program is discontinued, CDHS will: notify the county of the termination date; discontinue the QI-1 eligibility reporting on the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System; discontinue the Medicare Part B buy-in; send a notice of discontinuance to the QI-1; and send a listing of discontinued QI-1s so that the county systems can be updated.

CDHS will continue to keep county staff updated on the status of the QI-1 program. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Ms. Vicki Partington at (916) 552-9496 or email Vparting@dhs.ca.gov.

Original signed by

Tameron Mitchell, R.D., M.P.H., Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch