



California
Department of
Health Services

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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

October 12, 2006

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 06-27

ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY PICKLE COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: OUTREACH, TRAINING, AND OTHER ISSUES SURROUNDING THE
250 PERCENT WORKING DISABLED PROGRAM
(Reference: California Department of Social Services All County Letter
Number 04-43 and All County Welfare Directors Letter Number 00-16)

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding the 250 Percent Working Disabled (WD) Program training and outreach activities conducted throughout the State by the California Health Incentives Improvement Project (CHIIP).

CHIIP is funded by a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Sonoma State University administers these funds through CHIIP and works in close partnership with the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) and the Employment Development Department on outreach, education, research and capacity building efforts cited in California's Comprehensive Strategy on Employment of People with Disabilities. In 2006, CHIIP received \$1,466,484 in Medicaid Infrastructure Grant funds to further the State's work developing comprehensive employment services and supports for people with disabilities.

BACKGROUND

The 250 Percent WD Program was established in 2000 (Assembly Bill 155, Chapter 820, Statutes of 1999, Migden) to improve access to needed levels of healthcare for working people with disabilities. As of May 2006, only 2,232 individuals are enrolled in the 250 Percent WD Program, far fewer than the 7,000-14,000 individuals projected to enroll within the first two years of implementation (CDHS, Fiscal Analysis of AB 155).

Work incentives such as the 250 Percent WD Program are key elements to increasing the employment and self-sufficiency of Californians with disabilities. CHIIP will dedicate significant Medicaid Infrastructure Grant funds to conducting outreach and education to Medi-Cal beneficiaries and to communities at large in 2006 and 2007

MASS MAILINGS

CHIIP is working with CDHS to develop informational mailings on the 250 Percent WD Program. The first mailing will be sent to all Medi-Cal beneficiaries in the Medically Needy Program with a share of cost in aid codes 27 and 67, and will include a brochure developed by CHIIP on the 250 Percent WD program. The second mailing will be to recipients of In-Home Supportive Services and will include brochures on both the 250 Percent WD Program and the ability to use personal care services in the workplace (refer to the California Department of Social Services All County Letter 04-43). All CHIIP outreach materials can be downloaded from www.chiip.org/publications.html.

MEDIA CAMPAIGN

CHIIP will also be contracting with a public relations firm to develop local media campaigns on employment for people with disabilities, including the 250 Percent WD Program and personal care services in the workplace. Positive messages relating to employment and access to healthcare will be disseminated through a variety of media, depending on local target audiences. County staff are encouraged to participate on local advisory committees as this effort gets under way. For more information, please contact CHIIP staff person Regina Cademarti at (916) 654-2561.

CROSS-AGENCY TRAINING

CHIIP will continue to sponsor cross-agency training throughout California on work incentives and healthcare supports, including the 250 Percent WD Program. Cross-agency training participants receive materials and information that Medi-Cal recipients with disabilities can access and retain needed healthcare services when

working. The training sessions are planned locally and bring together employees and frontline workers from a variety of programs, departments, and agencies to increase awareness of work, health, benefits, and disability. The trainings also serve to increase community collaborations, increase cross-referrals, and expand resources available to staff. To obtain information about the training, or to request training in your area, please contact CHIIP at (916) 654-2561.

PREMIUM PAYMENTS

As a reminder, the systems programming for the 250 Percent WD program is still not completed and individuals are not yet receiving a monthly invoice from CDHS. Please continue to provide the 250 Percent WD individuals with the preaddressed prepaid envelopes in which to mail their premiums. You will be notified through another All County Welfare Directors Letter when the systems programming has been completed.

OVERVIEW

Please alert your frontline staff that the outreach and education activities noted in this letter are expected to result in increasing inquiry, application, and enrollment in the 250 Percent WD Program. Staff should be directed to All County Welfare Directors Letter Number 00-16 for detailed information about the 250 Percent WD Program. Counties should also advise receptionists or other staff answering phones about the existence of this program and that callers may not specifically use the program title, but may use a phrase that includes the term “working disabled” or “Medicaid buy-in” when they call to request information about the program.

If you would like to obtain brochures for your county office on the 250 Percent WD Program, contact Mr. Nicholas Moore via email at mooreni@sonoma.edu.

If you have any questions regarding the 250 Percent WD Program or this letter, please contact Ms. Debra Hader at (916) 552-9494. For information about CHIIP, please call Ms. Rachel Stewart at (916) 552-9491 or rstewart@dhs.ca.gov.

Original signed by

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Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch