

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P Street
P.O. Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320
(916) 657-2941



April 30, 1997

Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch Information Letter No.: I-97-08

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

QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARY (QMB) OUTREACH

Ref. All County Welfare Directors Letter No. 92-20

This is to request counties for an update of their QMB and Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) contact and telephone number.

Persons interested in these programs may contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) toll-free line as specified in the enclosed brochure. If they request an application or more specific information, the operator may refer the party to your county contact person as shown on the enclosed list.

SSA has informed us that some of the telephone numbers and contacts are now incorrect. Please check the enclosed county contact list and make any corrections. Please respond to Marge Buzdas of my staff at (916) 657-0726 or send a FAX to (916) 657-3224.

If we do not hear from you, we will assume that the current county contact person and/or telephone number and address are correct.

The 1997 federal poverty level was sent to counties on March 25, 1997 with an effective date of April 1, 1997. The 1997 QMB/SLMB brochure should be updated by the Health Care Financing Administration shortly.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Enclosures

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300
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Revised April 1996

Health Care Financing Administration
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



**Savings for
Qualified Beneficiaries**



**Help in Paying
Medicare Expenses
Available to Some
Low-Income Persons**



Medicare Savings For You

If you are elderly and poor, or disabled and poor and eligible for Medicare, your State may pay some or all of your Medicare expenses.

Federal law requires that State Medicaid programs pay Medicare costs for certain elderly and disabled persons with low incomes and very limited assets. What this means is that, depending on your income and the value of things you own, you will not have to pay as much money out of your own pocket for hospital, physician and other services covered by Medicare. You could save hundreds if not thousands of dollars each year.

Two Programs Offer Help

There are two programs to help people pay their Medicare expenses. One is called the "Qualified Medicare Beneficiary" or "QMB" program. The other is called the "Specified Low-income Medicare Beneficiary" or "SLMB" program.

The QMB program is for persons with limited resources whose incomes are at or below the national poverty level. It covers the costs of the Medicare premiums, coinsurance and deductibles that Medicare

beneficiaries normally pay out of their own pockets. If you qualify for assistance under the QMB program, you will not have to pay:

Medicare's hospital deductible, which is \$736 per benefit period in 1996.

The daily coinsurance charges for extended hospital and skilled nursing facility stays.

The Medicare Medical Insurance (Part B) premium, which is \$42.50 per month in 1996.

The \$100 annual Part B deductible.

The 20 percent coinsurance for services covered by Medicare Part B, depending on which doctor you go to.

The State would cover these Medicare cost-sharing amounts for you. You would only be responsible for paying for the various medical supplies and services not covered by Medicare, such as routine physicals, dental care, hearing aids and eyeglasses. And, if required by your State, you would also be liable for nominal cost-sharing amounts each time you went to the doctor or used other benefits that required copayments.

While the QMB program helps those whose income is at or below the national poverty level, the SLMB program is for persons whose incomes are slightly higher than the poverty level, but not more than 20 percent higher. If you qualify for assistance under the SLMB program, you will not have to pay:

The \$42.50 monthly Part B premium.

The State will pay the premium for you. You will, however, continue to be responsible for Medicare's deductibles, coinsurance, and for charges for health care services and medical supplies not covered by Medicare.

How Do I Qualify?

The rules may vary from State to State but, in general terms, to qualify for assistance under the QMB program, you must meet the following requirements:

1. You must be entitled to Medicare Part A. If you do not have Part A or do not know whether you are entitled to Part A, check with any Social Security Administration office or call 1-800-772-1213.

Most people are entitled to Part A based on their own employment or the employment of a spouse. Even if you or your spouse did not work or did not work long enough to entitle you to Part A, your State may buy it for you.

If you are under 65, you can get Part A if you are on kidney dialysis or have undergone a kidney transplantation. You can also get Part A if you have received disability benefits from either the Social Security Administration or the Railroad Retirement Board for more than 24 months.

2. Your financial resources such as bank accounts, stocks and bonds cannot exceed \$4,000 for one person or \$6,000 for a couple. Some things—like the home you live in, one automobile, burial plots, home furnishings, personal jewelry and life insurance—usually do not count as resources.

3. Your income must be at or below the national poverty level. The **QMB** monthly income limits in 1996 are:

All States except Alaska and Hawaii
\$665 (individual) \$884 (couple)

Alaska: \$825 (individual)
 \$1,099 (couple)

Hawaii: \$763 (individual)
 \$1,014 (couple)

Income includes, but is not limited to, Social Security benefits, pensions and wages. Interest payments and dividends can also count as income.

What If My Income Is Slightly Higher Than the Poverty Level?

If you do not qualify for **QMB** assistance because your income is too high, you may be able to get help under the **SLMB** program. To qualify for **SLMB** assistance, you must meet requirements one and two listed under the previous section. Also, your income cannot exceed the national poverty level by more than 20 percent. This means that in 1996 the **SLMB** monthly income limits are:

All states except Alaska and Hawaii
\$794 (individual) \$1,056 (couple)

Alaska: \$986 (individual)
 \$1,314 (couple)

Hawaii: \$912 (individual)
 \$1,213 (couple)

Where Do I Apply?

If you already have Medicare Part A and think you qualify for either **QMB** or **SLMB** assistance, you must file an application for Medicaid at a State, county, or local medical assistance office—not a Federal office. You can get the telephone number for your medical assistance office by calling **1-800-638-6833**.

Give the operator the name of your State and county. Explain that you want the telephone number for the nearest office that can help you file for assistance under either the **Qualified Medicare Beneficiary** or **Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary** program.

What If I'm Not Covered By Medicare Part A?

If you are age 65 or older and think you qualify for this assistance but do not have Medicare Part A, you should first contact a Social Security Administration office. You may need to file an application for Part A. The address for the nearest Social Security Administration office can be found in the telephone book. Social Security's toll-free telephone number is 1-800-772-1213.

What Do I Ask For?

When you contact your medical assistance office, ask about the **QMB** or **SLMB** program or the "Medicare Buy-In" program. Explain that you think you qualify for help in paying your Medicare costs and you want to know when and where you can file an application for Medicaid.

What Should I Bring With Me?

When you file an application for Medicaid, be prepared to answer questions about your income, property you own, and other assets. You will be expected to have copies of documents like bank statements, property deeds and insurance policies that show the amount of cash you have and the value of things you own.

Verification of your enrollment in Medicare Part A and of your income and assets will be important in determining your eligibility for assistance. As your application is processed, you may be required to go through a face-to-face interview with a Medicaid caseworker.

If Your Application Is Denied

If your application for assistance under either the **QMB** or **SLMB** program is denied, you have a right to appeal within 30 days of the denial. You file an appeal at the place you filed your Medicaid application. You are guaranteed a hearing.

If you need assistance or advice, you may want to contact your State agency on aging. Assistance also may be available from the Legal Aid or Legal Services office in your State. These offices provide free legal services to people whose incomes are within certain guidelines.

The telephone numbers for all State offices can be found in the telephone directory under "State Government."

For More Information About Medicare

For more information about the Medicare program, please refer to *Your Medicare Handbook*. Copies are available from any Social Security Administration office.



**QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARY (QMB)/ SPECIFIED
LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY (SLMB) CONTACT LIST**

01	ALAMEDA COUNTY Social Services Agency Pat Jenkins 24041 Amador Street Hayward, CA 94544 (510) 670-6221	08	DEL NORTE COUNTY Welfare Department Teri Husberg 981 H Street Crescent City, CA 95531 (707) 464-3191
02	ALPINE COUNTY Dept. of Social Services Lorraine Lake P. O. Box 277 14810 Highway 89 Markleeville, CA 96120 (916) 694-2235	09	EL DORADO COUNTY Department of Social Services Mary Peterson 3057 Briw Road - - - Placerville, CA 95667 (916) 642-7321
03	AMADOR COUNTY Dept. of Social Services Emily Daniel 125 Academy Drive Sutter Creek, CA 95685 (209) 223-6550	10	FRESNO COUNTY Dept. of Social Services Johnnie Belford (209) 453-4779 or Gayle DeLateur (209) 453-6469 4449 E. Kings Canyon P.O. Box 1912 Fresno, CA 93750
04	BUTTE COUNTY Dept. of Social Welfare Brenda Pilgram 42 County Center Drive P.O. Box 1649 Oroville, CA 95965 (916) 538-7920	11	GLENN COUNTY Human Resources Agency Susan Benamati 420 E. Laurel Street P.O. Box 611 Willows, CA 95988 (916) 934-6514
05	CALAVARAS COUNTY Welfare Department Connie McLain Govt. Center, Mtn. Ranch Rd. San Andreas, CA 95249 (209) 754-6444	12	HUMBOLDT COUNTY Dept. of Social Services Mary McCutcheon 929 Koster Street Eureka, CA 95501 (707) 445-6026
06	COLUSA COUNTY Health and Human Services Nancy Montgomery 251 E. Webster P. O. Box 370 Colusa, CA 95932 (916) 458-0265	13	IMPERIAL COUNTY Department of Social Services Carolina Fernandez P. O. Box 930 El Centro, CA 92244 (619) 337-7436
07	CONTRA COSTA Social Services Dept. Sandy Baldwin 40 Douglas Drive Martinez, CA 94553 (510) 313-1621	14	INYO COUNTY Dept. of Social Services Darlene Landis 162A Grove Street Bishop, CA 93514 (619) 872-1394

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| 15 | <p>KERN COUNTY
 Dept. of Human Services
 Karyn Bostick
 100 E. California Ave.
 Bakersfield, CA 93307
 (805) 631-6186</p> | 22 | <p>MARIPOSA COUNTY
 Debbie Smith
 Dept. of Human Services
 Social Services Division
 5186 Highway 49 North
 P. O. Box 7
 Mariposa, CA 95338
 (209) 966-3609</p> |
| 16 | <p>KINGS COUNTY
 Human Services Agency
 Kim McCord
 1200 South Drive
 Hanford, CA 93230
 (209) 582-3241 Ext. 2217</p> | 23 | <p>MENDOCINO COUNTY
 Dept. of Social Services
 Nancy Naumann
 747 South State Street
 P. O. Box 1060
 Ukiah, CA 95482
 (707) 463-2437 Ext. 173</p> |
| 17 | <p>LAKE COUNTY
 Dept. of Social Services
 Fayanna Scheiberl
 1220 Martin Street
 P.O. Box 190
 Lakeport, CA 95453
 (707) 262-3200</p> | 24 | <p>MERCED COUNTY
 Human Services Agency
 Edith Rodriquez
 P. O. 112
 Merced, CA 95641
 (209) 385-3000 Ext. 5496</p> |
| 18 | <p>LASSEN COUNTY
 Dept. of Social Welfare
 Nellie Guinn
 720 Richmond Road
 P. O. Box 1359
 Susanville, CA 96130
 (916) 257-8311 Ext. 157</p> | 25 | <p>MODOC COUNTY
 Dept. of Social Services
 Pat Wood
 120 North Main Street
 Alturas, CA 96101
 (916) 233-6501</p> |
| 19 | <p>LOS ANGELES COUNTY
 Dept. of Public Social Services
 General Information Number
 P. O. Box 2151
 Bassett, CA 91731
 (310) 908-8333</p> | 26 | <p>MONO COUNTY
 Dept. of Social Welfare
 Frances Thompson
 P.O. Box 576
 Bridgeport, CA 93517
 (619) 932-7291</p> |
| 20 | <p>MADERA COUNTY
 Dept. of Public Welfare
 Pamela Hansen
 720 E. Yosemite
 P. O. Box 569
 Madera, CA 93638
 (209) 675-2364</p> | 27 | <p>MONTEREY COUNTY
 Dept. of Social Services
 General Information Number
 1000 S. Main Street, Suite 216
 Salinas, CA 93901
 (408) 755-8500</p> |
| 21 | <p>MARIN COUNTY
 Dept. of Health & Human Services
 Jenny Santellan
 3501 Civic Center Branch
 P. O. 4160
 San Rafael, CA 94913
 (415) 499-7089</p> | 28 | <p>NAPA COUNTY
 Health and Human Services
 Linda Abbey
 2261 Elm Street
 Napa, CA 94558
 (707) 253-4106</p> |

29	NEVADA COUNTY Dept. of Public Social Services Cynthia Bryan 950 Maidu Ave P. O. Box 1210 Nevada City, CA 95959 (916) 265-1638	37	SAN DIEGO COUNTY Dept. of Social Services QMB Specialist 7947 Mission Center Court San Diego, CA 92101 (619) 531-6293
30	ORANGE COUNTY Social Services Agency Medi-Cal Officer of the Day 1055 North Main Street, Room 600 Santa Ana, CA 92701 (714) 541-7700	38	SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY Brenda Jow Dept. of Social Services P. O. Box 7988 San Francisco, CA 94120 (415) 557-6152
31	PLACER COUNTY County Welfare Dept. General Information Number 11519 B Avenue Auburn, CA 95603 (916) 889-7610	39	SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY Dept. of Public Assistance Judy Pelcher 333 E. Washington P. O. Box 201056 Stockton, CA 95201 (209) 468-1453
32	PLUMAS COUNTY Dept. of Social Services Carol Roberts 270 County Hospital Road P. O. Box 360 Quincy, CA 95971 (916) 283-6350	40	SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY Dept. of Social Services Michele Stoutenborough 3220 S. Higuera Street P. O. Box 8119 San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8119 (805) 781-1887
33	RIVERSIDE COUNTY Dept. of Public Social Services Mark Friedlander 3950 Reynolds Road P.O. Box 7789 Riverside, CA 92503 (909) 358-3262	41	SAN MATEO COUNTY Human Services Agency Robert Fucilla 200 Harbor Blvd., Bldg. C Belmont, CA 94002 (415) 595-7570
34	SACRAMENTO COUNTY Dept. of Social Services Kathy Seatrix--A920 1725 28th Street Sacramento, CA 95816 (916) 732-9376	42	SANTA BARBARA COUNTY Dept. of Social Services Mysty Bonner 2125 South Centerpointe Parkway Santa Maria, CA 93455 (805) 346-8218
35	SAN BENITO COUNTY Human Services Agency Joyce Thysell 1111 San Felipe Road, No. 206 Hollister, CA 95023 (408) 637-5336	43	SANTA CLARA COUNTY Social Services Agency Mary Cardenas 1725 Technology Drive San Jose, CA 95110 (408) 441-5590
36	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY Dept. of Public Social Services General Information Number 468 W. 5th Street, 2nd Floor, #420 San Bernardino, CA 92401 Call local Dept. of Social Services	44	SANTA CRUZ COUNTY Human Resources Agency Nan Toy 1020 Emeline Street P. O. Box 1320 Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (408) 454-4142

- 45 SHASTA COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Phyllis Trammel
2460 Breslauer Way
P. O. Box 496005
Redding, CA 96049
(916) 225-5596
- 46 SIERRA COUNTY
Human Services
Lori Wright
195 Front Street
P. O. Box 1019
Loyalton, CA 96118
(916) 993-6720
- 47 SISKIYOU COUNTY
Human Services
Delores Virag
Court House, Room #4
311 4th Street
Yreka, CA 96097
(916) 841-2702
- 48 SOLANO COUNTY
Public Welfare Dept.
For Vallejo & Benica:
355 Tuolumne Street
Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 553-5359

For all other cities:
1745 Enterprise Drive
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 421-7700
- 49 SONOMA COUNTY
Social Services Dept.
George Alberigi
2550 Paulin Drive
P. O. Box 1539
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(707) 527-2139
- 50 STANISLAUS COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Barbara Aja
P. O. Box 42
Modesto, CA 95353
(209) 558-2690
- 51 SUTTER COUNTY
Welfare & Social Services
Mary Sullivan
190 Garden Highway
P. O. Box 1535
Yuba City, CA 95992-1535
(916) 822-7230
- 52 TEHAMA COUNTY
Dept. of Social Welfare
Bonnie Davis
1135 Lincoln
P. O. Box 1515
Red Bluff, CA 96080
(916) 527-1911
- 53 TRINITY COUNTY
Dept. of Health & Human Svcs.
Joni McFarren
P.O. Box 1470
Weaverville, CA 96093
(916) 623-1265
- 54 TULARE COUNTY
Dept. of Public Social Services
General Information Numbers
100 East Center, P. O. Box 671
Visalia, CA 93279
(209) 733-6000

75 West Olive Avenue
P.O. Box 1269
Porterville
(209) 782-4750

458 East O'Neal Ave., P.O. Box 1375
Tulare, CA 93275
(209) 685-2600

148 South L Street, P.O. Box 985
Dinuba, Ca 93618
(209) 591-5804

900 North Sequoia
P.O. Box 670
Lindsay, CA 93247
(209) 562-1377
- 55 TUOLUMNE COUNTY
County Welfare Department
Carol Peters
20075 Cedar Road North
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 533-5735
- 56 VENTURA COUNTY
Public Social Services Agency
General Information Number
1400 Vanguard Drive, Second Floor
Oxnard, CA 93033
(805) 385-8587
- 57 YOLO COUNTY
Dept. of Social Services
Lorraine Caprio
500 A Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95605
(916) 375-6214

58 YUBA COUNTY
County Welfare Department
General Information Number
6000 Lindhurst Avenue, #504
P. O. Box 2320
Marysville, CA 95901
(916) 749-6311