



NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Social Services

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California Department of Social Services Reminds 27,000 Existing In-Home Supportive Services Providers to Re-enroll by End of Year To Remain in Program

SACRAMENTO – California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Director John Wagner on Wednesday reminded In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers to complete the new provider enrollment process before the end of the year or lose eligibility for the program.

“While we are pleased that most providers have already completed background check requirements, approximately 27,000 in-home supportive service workers need to take steps now to ensure they complete that process by the end of the year,” Wagner said.

More than 380,000 providers have completed state requirements enacted in 2009, which include fingerprinting, undergoing a criminal background check and taking part in a provider orientation. Approximately 27,000 existing providers have started the process but not yet completed it.

Assembly Bill, Fourth Extraordinary Legislative Session (ABX4) 19 (Chapter 17, Statutes of 2009) established additional enrollment requirements for all IHSS providers which were to be completed no later than July 1, 2010. Due to the volume of provider enrollment forms, orientations, and criminal background checks that could not be processed by counties by June 30, 2010, CDSS instructed counties via an All-County Letter that current providers who have completed one of four provider enrollment requirements will be allowed until December 31, 2010, to complete the remaining mandated enrollment requirements. Any provider who has not completed the entire process will then be terminated and no longer be paid by the IHSS program for any hours they work after December 31, 2010.

The number of successful enrollments and re-enrollments in accordance with the background check requirements adopted in 2009 increased significantly in recent months due to the action steps and outreach by CDSS, counties officials, Public Authorities, and provider organizations.

“This has been a true partnership between the state, county, public authorities and provider representative organizations to amass such a large pool of eligible providers who will provide care in the IHSS program,” Wagner said. “These efforts have enhanced protections for recipients and improved program integrity.”

The IHSS program provides in-home care to more than 421,000 low-income seniors as well as blind or disabled adults or children who need assistance to remain in their homes. IHSS providers perform household tasks and provide personal care services based on an individual's need, such as bathing, grooming, meal preparation, and feeding.

As of November 22, 2010, more than 27,000 working providers have not completed the re-enrollment process. The four requirements of the new provider enrollment process include: a new provider enrollment form with a declaration signed under penalty of perjury; a new provider form acknowledging their understanding of the IHSS program requirements; fingerprinting and a criminal background check; and participation in a program orientation.

The process, designed to ensure the integrity of the IHSS program and protect client safety, was put into action when the Legislature passed and Governor Schwarzenegger signed the 2009 Budget Act. All new IHSS provider applicants are required to complete all four requirements to be eligible to receive payment for services provided to IHSS recipients.

In addition, a new law, (Assembly Bill 1612) enacted as part of the budget process in 2010 expands the list of crimes for which providers may be disqualified from participating in the program. That new law means that starting on February 1, 2011, individuals convicted of specified felonies are not eligible in many cases from becoming care givers in the IHSS program.

BY THE NUMBERS*

IHSS providers fully enrolled in new process	382,029
Existing IHSS providers who have not completed the new process	27,841

*As of November 22, 2010

IHSS providers needing to take steps to re-enroll in the program should contact their county IHSS program or public authority to learn more about how to re-enroll. A list of IHSS contacts by counties can be found at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/agedblinddisabled/PG1785.htm>.

For a complete list of major action items undertaken to date, please visit: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG16.htm>.

For a breakdown of provider enrollment counts by county updated weekly, please visit: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/agedblinddisabled/PG2196.htm>.

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