



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

December 18, 2014

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-68-14

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS
MANAGERS

SUBJECT: **NEW PAYMENT STANDARDS FOR THE CASH ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2015**

REFERENCE: All County Letter No. 99-13, Dated March 17, 1999

This All County Information Notice provides new payment standards for the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), effective January 2015. It also provides clarification on the computation of benefits for a CAPI recipient whose spouse receives Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP).

As required by Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 18941, the CAPI payment standards are based on the SSI/SSP payment standards, less \$10.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a couple per month. Although there will be no increase in the state-funded SSP amount in January 2015, there will be an increase in the federally-funded SSI payment due to a cost of living adjustment (COLA) and an increase in the combined SSI/SSP payment standards. Consequently, there will be an increase in CAPI payment standards. The attached table shows the new CAPI payment standards which become effective on January 1, 2015.

The federal SSI COLA also affects the following values for the entire calendar year that can impact CAPI eligibility and benefit amounts effective on January 1, 2015:

Presumed Maximum Value (PMV) of In-Kind Support and Maintenance

- To compute this value, take 1/3 of the federal SSI amount and add \$20.00. This changes the PMV from \$260.33 to \$264.33 for an individual and from \$380.67 to \$386.67 for a couple.

Allowance for Ineligible Children in Deeming Situations

- To compute this allowance, determine the difference between the federal SSI benefit amount for a couple and the federal SSI benefit amount for an individual. This computation changes the allowance from \$361.00 to \$367.00.
- This allowance is entered, when appropriate, on the Income Eligibility Worksheet (SOC 452), line B.2.a, when determining a CAPI benefit amount for a case involving deemed income from an ineligible spouse.

Sponsor's Allocation in Alien Deeming Situations

- This allocation equals the federal SSI rate for an individual. The federal SSI COLA changes the allocation from \$721.00 to \$733.00.
- This allowance is entered, when appropriate, on the Sponsor to Alien Deeming Worksheet (SOC 454), line 2, when determining a CAPI benefit amount for a case involving deemed income from a sponsor.

Allowance for Parent(s) In Parent-to-Child Deeming Situations

- The allowance for one parent is equal to the federal SSI Individual rate. The allowance for two parents is equal to the federal SSI Couple rate. The federal SSI COLA changes the allowance from \$721.00 to \$733.00 for one parent and from \$1,082.00 to \$1,100.00 for two parents.
- This allowance is entered on the Income Eligibility-Child worksheet (SOC 452A) when determining eligibility for a minor child and income must be deemed from his or her parent(s).

COLA Coordination When One Spouse Receives SSI/SSP

As stated above, WIC section 18941 requires CAPI benefits to be equivalent to SSI/SSP benefits less \$10.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a couple per month. A unique situation arises when one member of a couple receives SSI/SSP and the other receives CAPI. All-County Letter No. 99-13 addressed this situation by requiring counties to count the SSI/SSP benefits received by one member as income while using a special payment standard that is \$10.00 less than the SSI/SSP payment standard for a couple. The intended result of this policy is that the CAPI-SSI/SSP couple receives combined benefits that total \$10.00 less than the SSI/SSP benefit rate for a couple, as required by WIC section 18941. However, the intended result will NOT occur for a CAPI-SSI/SSP couple if normal retrospective budgeting of the spouse's SSI/SSP benefit is used to determine CAPI payment in the effective month of a COLA and the subsequent month. Using a January COLA, for example, under normal retrospective counting rules the CAPI recipient's January and February payments would be computed

using the spouse's SSI/SSP benefit from November and December, respectively (before the SSI/SSP COLA in January), resulting in the CAPI-SSI/SSP couple receiving higher combined benefits in January and February than either the SSI/SSP or CAPI couple.

In order to comply with WIC section 18941, counties are instructed to budget prospectively for CAPI-SSI/SSP couples by using the spouse's SSI/SSP benefit in the month that a COLA occurs and the subsequent month. Using a January COLA, for example, the CAPI recipient's January payment should be computed using the spouse's SSI/SSP January payment, and the CAPI recipient's February payment should be computed using the spouse's SSI/SSP February payment.

Should you have questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact the Policy and Operations Bureau of the Policy and Quality Assurance Branch at (916) 651-5350.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

EILEEN CARROLL
Deputy Director
Adult Programs Division

Attachment

CAPI PAYMENT STANDARDS*

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015

Includes Pass-Through of SSI COLA (CPI) and Suspension of SSP COLA (CNI)

CPI: 1.7%
CNI: N/A

	INDEPENDENT LIVING			REDUCED NEEDS		
	RESIDING IN OWN HOUSEHOLD			HOUSEHOLD OF ANOTHER WITH IN-KIND ROOM & BOARD		
<u>INDIVIDUAL:</u>	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP
AGED OR DISABLED	\$879.40		\$889.40	\$638.50		\$648.50
- without cooking facilities (RMA) ¹	\$963.40		\$973.40			
BLIND	\$934.40		\$944.40	\$693.50		\$703.50
DISABLED MINOR						
- living with parent(s)	\$786.40		\$796.40	\$545.50		\$555.50
- living with non-parent relative or non-relative guardian						
<u>COUPLE:</u>	TOTAL CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	TOTAL SSI/SSP	TOTAL CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	TOTAL SSI/SSP
AGED OR DISABLED						
- per couple	\$1,476.20	\$1,486.20	\$1,496.20	\$1,114.67	\$1,124.67	\$1,134.67
- without cooking facilities (RMA) ¹	\$1,644.20	\$1,654.20	\$1,664.20			
BLIND						
- per couple	\$1,623.20	\$1,633.20	\$1,643.20	\$1,261.67	\$1,271.67	\$1,281.67
BLIND/AGED OR DISABLED						
- per couple	\$1,567.20	\$1,577.20	\$1,587.20	\$1,205.67	\$1,215.67	\$1,225.67

TITLE XIX MEDICAL FACILITY

	Individual	Couple
Total CAPI	\$40	\$80
SSI/SSP	\$50	\$100

¹ RMA - \$84 Individual; \$168 Couple

Based on W&IC section 18941, CAPI benefits are equivalent to those of SSI/SSP program, except that the payment is reduced by \$10 per individual and \$20 per couple per month.

CAPI PAYMENT STANDARDS*

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015

Includes Pass-Through of Federal COLA (CPI) and Suspension of State COLA (CNI)

CPI: 1.7%
CNI: N/A

	NMOHC					
	HOUSEHOLD OF RELATIVE WITH IN-KIND ROOM & BOARD			IN LICENSED FACILITY OR HOUSEHOLD OF RELATIVE WITHOUT IN-KIND ROOM & BOARD		
<u>INDIVIDUAL:</u>	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP
AGED OR DISABLED - without cooking facilities (RMA) ¹	\$885.67		\$895.67	\$1,135.00		\$1,145.00
BLIND	\$885.67		\$895.67	\$1,135.00		\$1,145.00
DISABLED MINOR - living with parent(s) - living with non-parent relative or non-relative guardian	\$885.67		\$895.67	\$1,135.00		\$1,145.00
<u>COUPLE:</u>	TOTAL CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	TOTAL SSI/SSP	TOTAL CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	TOTAL SSI/SSP
AGED OR DISABLED - per couple - without cooking facilities (RMA) ¹	\$1,759.00	\$1,769.00	\$1,779.00	\$2,270.00	\$2,280.00	\$2,290.00
BLIND - per couple	\$1,759.00	\$1,769.00	\$1,779.00	\$2,270.00	\$2,280.00	\$2,290.00
BLIND/AGED OR DISABLED - per couple	\$1,759.00	\$1,769.00	\$1,779.00	\$2,270.00	\$2,280.00	\$2,290.00

Based on W&IC section 18941, CAPI benefits are equivalent to those of SSI/SSP program, except that the payment is reduced by \$10 per individual and \$20 per couple per month.