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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

December 19, 2016

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-81-16

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 2017**

REFERENCE: [ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 99-13, DATED MARCH 17, 1999;](#)
[CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS §416.1166a](#) _
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE §§12201.06, 18941](#)
[MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES §49-005\(p\)\(1\)](#)

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State Law Change
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Court Order
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiated by CDSS

This All County Information Notice transmits new payment standards for the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), effective January 1, 2017. 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. There will be an increase of 2.76% in the state-funded SSP amount on January 1, 2017. [WIC §12201.06](#). Additionally, there will be an increase in the federally-funded SSI payment due to a cost of living adjustment (COLA). Accordingly, both SSI/SSP payment standards and CAPI payment standards will increase for 2017. The attached table shows the new CAPI payment standards which become effective on January 1, 2017.

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, 2017.

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. [Manual of Policies and Procedures §49-005\(p\)\(1\)](#) This changes the PMV from \$264.33 to \$265.00 for an individual and from \$386.67 to \$387.67 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 \$367.00 to \$368.00.
- This allowance is entered, when appropriate, on the Income Eligibility Worksheet ([SOC 452](#)), line B.2.a, when calculating the 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. [Code of Federal Regulations §416.1166a](#). The federal SSI COLA changes the allocation from \$733.00 to \$735.00.
- This allowance is entered, when appropriate, on the Sponsor to Alien Deeming Worksheet ([SOC 454](#)), line 2, when calculating the 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 \$733.00 to \$735.00 for one parent and from \$1,100.00 to \$1,103.00 for two parents.
- This allowance is entered on the Income Eligibility-Child worksheet ([SOC 452A](#)), line A.16, when calculating the CAPI benefit amount for a case involving deemed income from an ineligible 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. 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 calculate the CAPI payment in the effective month of a COLA and in 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). This would result 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 prospectively budget for CAPI-SSI/SSP couples by using the spouse's SSI/SSP benefit in the month that a COLA occurs and in 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 Steve Koehler or Aron Smith at California Department of Social Services, Adult Programs Division, Cash Assistance and Coordinated Care Initiative Unit at (916) 651-5350 or email to: steven.koehler@dss.ca.gov or aron.smith@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

DEBBI THOMSON
Deputy Director
Adult Programs Division

Attachment: [CDSS Local Assistance 2017-2018 Governor's Budget Reference Documents](#)