

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



February 21, 1997

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-10-97

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

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

SUBJECT: EARNED INCOME CREDIT OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO.s I-15-96, dated March 15, 1996; I-50-94, dated December 30, 1994; I-04-94, dated February 1, 1994; and I-07-93, dated February 16, 1993.

This letter transmits copies of the Earned Income Credit (EIC) outreach stuffer which will be mass mailed to most recipients of Medi-Cal in February 1997 by the Department of Health Services (DHS) in a joint effort with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

The purpose of the EIC outreach is to encourage welfare clients to work or continue to work by making them aware of this special tax benefit available from the federal government for low-income working families. The EIC refund is not counted as income when benefits are figured in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Food Stamp and Medi-Cal programs. Therefore, the effect of the tax benefit may be significant to families in our current welfare system.

Research shows that many people do not claim the earned income credit because they are either unaware of the credit or they complete the wrong tax form. To receive the EIC, a federal tax Form 1040 or 1040A must be completed along with a Schedule EIC. In addition, if a person did not originally file for the EIC, he or she can file an amended tax form (1040X) with a Schedule EIC within three years from the date the original return was filed. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) offers free tax preparation through a program called VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). The public may obtain information about VITA locations by calling 1-800-829-1040. The IRS Regional Coordinators (see attached) can provide counties with information about VITA locations, the availability of free electronic filing, and a limited supply of the EIC brochures and posters currently being developed by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, D.C. The Regional Coordinator contact list is for administrative use only and is not to be given to the public.

The EIC stuffer is not a required form so it will not be stocked by the Department. A camera-ready copy of the stuffer is attached. The stuffer was developed only in English and Spanish, but counties can request a camera-ready copy of the Cambodian, Chinese, or Vietnamese translations by calling or writing:

Language Services Bureau  
California Department of Social Services  
744 P Street, MS 9-24  
Sacramento, California 95814  
(916) 654-1282/ATSS 464-1282

If you have any questions regarding the EIC outreach campaign, please contact Jan DeSilva of the AFDC Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 657-2314.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce Wagstaff".

BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare Programs Division

Attachments