

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



December 10, 1999

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-93-99

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS

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. I-15-96, DATED MARCH 15, 1996.

This letter transmits copies of the Earned Income Credit (EIC) outreach stuffer which will be mass mailed to California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) recipients in February 2000 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 CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work, Food Stamp and Medi-Cal programs. Therefore, the effect of the tax benefit may be significant to families in our current welfare system or even after they leave welfare due to employment.

Research shows that many people do not claim the EIC 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 EIC brochures developed by the IRS. The Regional Coordinator contact list is for administrative use only and is not to be given to the public.

Page Two

The EIC stuffer is not a required form so it will not be stocked by the Department. Camera-ready copies of the stuffer are attached. The stuffer was developed in English and Spanish. To receive additional camera-ready copies of the stuffers, call the CDSS Forms Management Unit (FMU) at (916) 657-1907 or CALNET at 437-1907. If your office has Internet access, you may obtain various forms from the Department's web page at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov>. To accommodate agencies without Internet access, copies will be available by contacting FMU.

Your Forms Coordinator now receives all translations as soon as they become available, if your county is on the Language Translation Services (LTS) mailing list. All translated messages in Russian and Asian (Cambodian, Chinese and Vietnamese) versions of forms will follow shortly. Call LTS at (916) 657-3429 if your county does not receive the Russian and Asian translations.

Additional information regarding the Earned Income Credit program, can be found on the internet at the following: <http://www.irs.gov> under *Tax Info For You*. If you have any questions regarding the EIC outreach campaign, please contact your Work Support Services analyst at (916) 654-1424.

Sincerely,

***Original document signed by
Jo Weber on 12/10/99***

JO WEBER, Chief
Work Services and Demonstration Projects Branch

Attachments