



CDSS

JOHN A. WAGNER
DIRECTOR

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

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

October 17, 2008

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 08-42

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 CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CONSORTIA PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO
KIDS (CalWORKs) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION OF HOMELESS
ASSISTANCE CHANGES

REFERENCE: Assembly Bill (AB) 335 (Chapter 726, Statutes of 2007), Welfare and
Institutions (W & I) Code Sections 11450

The purpose of this letter is to inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of the changes made to the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) by AB 335. These changes were effective on January 1, 2008. Although the statute did not provide authority for implementation of the new provisions via All County Letter (ACL), the Department researched and has determined that the language of the law was sufficiently clear and that it could be considered “self-implementing.” The Department proceeded to develop this ACL in order to implement the new provisions prior to regulations being promulgated, seeking input from counties and advocates, as is our routine practice. Pending release of the implementing regulations later this year, counties will need to follow the new statutory provisions described below.

The existing statute at section 11450(f)(2)(E)(iii) of the W & I Code allows a family to be eligible for temporary and permanent homeless assistance (HA) under an exception to the once-in-a-lifetime HA rule when homelessness is a direct result of domestic violence (DV) by a spouse, partner, or roommate. Prior to January 1, 2008, under these circumstances, DV was required to be verified by a third-party governmental or private health and human services agency.

The provisions of AB 335 permit recipients to verify DV as an exception to the once-in-a-lifetime HA rules with a sworn statement made by the victim, unless the agency documents in the case file, in writing, an independent, reasonable basis to find the recipient not credible. The DV may be verified by a sworn statement for up to two

All County Letter No. 08-42
Page Two

periods of temporary HA payments and two payments of permanent HA. Further, the CWD will be required to immediately inform HAP recipients, who verify DV with a sworn statement, of the availability of DV counseling and services and refer them to services upon request.

AB 335 also provides that if the CWD requires a recipient, who verifies DV by a sworn statement, to participate in a homeless avoidance case plan, the plan shall include the provision of DV services, if appropriate. If a recipient, who is seeking an exemption to the once-in-a-lifetime provision of HA based on DV, has previously received homeless avoidance services based on DV, the county shall review whether services were offered to the recipient and consider what additional services would assist the recipient in leaving the DV situation.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your CalWORKs County Consultant.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

CHARR LEE METSKER
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

c: CWDA
CSAC