DEPARTMENT OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
916/445-7046

June 15, 1977

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 77-24 (Fin. Plng)

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
WELFARE FISCAL SUPERVISORS
COUNTY AUDITORS
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OFFICERS

SUBJECT: County Welfare Department EPSDT Support Activities

The Department of Health has established a program to be effective July 1, 1977 which will provide additional supportive services to enable children to receive and effectively utilize CHDP health screening. This letter is to provide claiming instructions for those activities which, under an approved interagency agreement with the local Title XIX Child Health and Disability Prevention Agency (CHDP), may be performed by the county welfare departments.

Effective with the July-September 1977/78 quarter, the Administrative Expense Claim will be revised to identify county welfare department expenditures for providing specific Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) support activities that are eligible for federal financial participation (FFP) under Title XIX (Medi-Cal).

Salaries and benefits, travel, and training costs for EPSDT staff will be eligible for 75 percent FFP. The associated overhead costs for these staff, as allocated through the Administrative Expense Claim, are eligible for 50 percent FFP.

In order for EPSDT support services to be eligible for 75 percent Medi-Cal funding, several prerequisites must first be met. These include the following:

1. The EPSDT workers must be within a designated EPSDT Unit. To the maximum extent possible, these workers should perform only EPSDT activities.

2. The EPSDT Unit must be directly supervised by and directly supporting professional medical personnel or under the contractual supervision of professional medical personnel. (Federal definition of professional medical personnel includes a medical or psychiatric social worker or a social worker with an MSW degree who has two years experience in a medical setting.)

3. The EPSDT activities must be conducted according to an approved interagency agreement or contract with the local Title XIX, Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Agency.

4. The EPSDT workers may not perform categorical aid eligibility activities.

Additional program requirements for 75 percent Title XIX funding will be released from the Department of Health.

The DFA 46, Social Worker Time Study, and the corresponding expenditure pages within the Administrative Expense Claim have been revised to include Line P, which has been labeled "EPSDT." County welfare department caseworkers within organizationally identifiable EPSDT units meeting the above criteria may record the following activities to this line.

1. Intensive informing and outreach activities such as: providing detailed information about the screening tests and early diagnosis and treatment; helping the recipient to understand the importance of preventive health services; individual counseling; and outreach to eligibles individually or in community groups.

2. Referral for screening or for diagnosis and treatment by activities such as: individual counseling; assistance in making an appointment; and assistance in removing barriers or resolving personal problems which might otherwise prevent effective utilization of CHDP services.

3. Follow-up and case management activities such as: confirming that screening and diagnostic appointments were kept; determining if a referral to diagnosis and treatment is needed; rescheduling broken appointments; providing direct support services such as child care or transportation or referral to Title XX social workers to arrange for purchased support services (transportation, child care).

This time study category is <u>not</u> to be used by eligibility workers. Current state regulations require that eligibility workers inform clients of the availability of CHDP services, and provide necessary informational material describing CHDP benefits and how and where these benefits are provided. These activities are funded as administrative costs of the appropriate eligibility program (AFDC, Medi-Cal, APSB) and are not to be charged to Line P on the DFA 46.

Eligible costs of the EPSDT units will receive FFP from Title XIX. Currently, the program is being established with the nonfederal match from county funds. The Department of Health has requested state funds be appropriated in the State Budget Act for FY 1977/78 to be used as the program nonfederal match. If state funds are appropriated for this purpose, they will be used to replace or augment the county share.

If you have any questions on the proposed funding, please contact Carlos Patterson, Department of Health, at 916/322-4780. If you have any questions on claiming for these activities, you may contact Jim Collins or Ernie Van Sant of the Financial Planning Section, Department of Benefit Payments, at 916/445-7046.

Sincerely,

R. E. REICH
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA