February 27, 2019

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 19-21

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) PROGRAM MANAGERS

SUBJECT: ELIMINATION OF IHSS ANTI-FRAUD PLAN REQUIREMENT


PURPOSE

The purpose of this ACL is to inform counties that, commencing in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20, IHSS Anti-Fraud Plans will no longer be required for counties to administratively claim Title XIX Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for enhanced fraud prevention, detection, referral and investigation activities. This letter also advises counties that IHSS claiming instructions related to this letter will be provided in a forthcoming CFL.

BACKGROUND

The Budget Act of 2009 increased the IHSS appropriation by an additional $10 million General Fund (GF) for fraud investigations and program integrity efforts. As outlined in CFL No. 09/10-43, prior to claiming costs associated with IHSS enhanced anti-fraud efforts, counties were required to submit an Anti-Fraud Plan describing the county’s proposed fraud detection and prevention activities (supplemental to the anti-fraud and program integrity activities funded by the county’s IHSS Administrative Allocation) to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for approval.
Once approved, counties were advised to utilize Anti-Fraud Plan Program Codes (PC) 740 (IHSS Non-PCSP/Plus Option Anti-Fraud Plan) and PC 741 (IHSS PCSP/Plus Option Anti-Fraud Plan) for costs associated with the plan's activities. The PC 740 was available for claiming costs related to non-Title XIX eligible activities specified in a county's approved Anti-Fraud Plan. Similarly, PC 741 was available for claiming all Title XIX eligible activities specified in a county's approved Anti-Fraud Plan. The codes included implementation activities related to the provision of fraud prevention, detection, referral, investigation, and program integrity. However, the eligible anti-fraud activities were not intended to be duplicative of other IHSS activities or claimed to other IHSS codes.

ELIMINATION OF IHSS ANTI-FRAUD PLAN GENERAL FUND

The Budget Act of 2011 eliminated the GF portion for IHSS Anti-Fraud Plan costs (CFL No. 11/12-40). However, despite the lack of a GF allocation, counties had the option to continue operating supplemental anti-fraud activities and were still allowed to draw down Title XIX FFP for relevant costs by claiming to PC 740 and PC 741 if they had a CDSS-approved Anti-Fraud Plan. The CDSS later reiterated this information to counties, via ACIN No. I-26-15.

ELIMINATION OF THE IHSS ANTI-FRAUD PLAN REQUIREMENT

Due to the aforementioned allocation elimination, beginning in FY 2019-20, CDSS will no longer require counties to submit IHSS Anti-Fraud Plans to administratively claim Title XIX FFP for activities previously listed in county Anti-Fraud Plans. Accordingly, counties should cease claiming to PC 740 and PC 741, effective July 1, 2019 as these PCs will be deleted. Anti-fraud activities previously claimed to these PCs will be consolidated into other claiming codes for fraud-related activities. Revised claiming instructions will be issued in a forthcoming CFL.

For questions regarding this ACL, please contact the Adult Programs Fiscal, Appeals and Benefit Programs Branch, Program Integrity Unit at (916) 653-3850 or via e-mail at ihss-pi@dss.ca.gov. For claiming related questions, please e-mail fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

DEBBI THOMSON,
Deputy Director
Adult Programs Division