

DEPARTMENT OF ~~BENEFIT PAYMENTS~~ SOCIAL SERVICES~~See~~

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
916/445-0180



December 19, 1979

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I- 140-79ee

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
COUNTY DP MANAGERS
CHAIRPERSON, COUNTY BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: CENTRALIZED WELFARE DELIVERY SYSTEM

REFERENCE:

In addition to providing State fiscal relief to the counties, Assembly Bill 8 (AB-8) signed by the Governor in July 1979, contains a legislative mandate for the implementation of a centralized, state operated, welfare delivery system. The centralized delivery system being developed by the Department of Social Services to meet this mandate will be known as the Statewide Public Assistance Network, (SPAN). The legislation requires implementation of the system in all counties by July 1984. The current schedule in the Department of Social Services calls for beginning operation of the system in pilot counties by mid 1981.

Although details of the SPAN System have not yet been specified, there is a high probability that much of the county data processing activity for welfare, and possibly child support, will be absorbed by the State. As part of our work in preparing an implementation plan for SPAN, the Department of Social Services will gather and evaluate information concerning the impact of the system on the counties. SPAN project staff, with assistance from Department of Social Services program staff and county welfare department staff, will be gathering the information during the next several months. In addition to informal day to day involvement, counties will be formally involved in the project through an advisory committee established by the County Welfare Directors Association and through an advisory committee of broader membership established by the Department of Social Services. A draft of the implementation plan will be provided to the counties in May 1980, one month prior to the date it is due to the legislature.

Since the impact of SPAN will be significant, counties should consider it in their planning for acquisitions or changes in EDP equipment or supporting software systems and developments or major modifications in existing welfare applications systems. We recommend that wherever possible, counties postpone final decisions on acquisition of EDP hardware or software until spring 1980 when more information concerning the impact of SPAN becomes available. We also recommend that acquisitions by purchase be avoided if possible and that contracts or leases be for the short-term or with provision for renegotiation when more data becomes available.

In October 1979 the Department of Social Services issued an All-County Letter to All County Welfare Directors and Family Support Division Chiefs advising them of the criteria the Department would use in reviewing proposed EDP developments in welfare and child support. The criteria basically allowed maintenance activities to continue but imposed limitations on development activities. A copy of the letter issued by the Department is attached for your information.

If you have any questions about the proposed Statewide Public Assistance Network and its potential impact on EDP activities in your county, please contact the State Department of Social Services, County EDP Bureau at 916/445-0180.

Sincerely,



JOE KELLY
Deputy Director
Centralized Delivery System

Attachment

cc: CWDA
CSAC

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
916/323-3466



October 1, 1979

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 79-66 (CENTRALIZED DELIVERY SYSTEM)

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All Family Support Division Chiefs

SUBJECT: POLICY REGARDING EDP ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTIES

Assembly Bill 8 (Green) signed by the Governor on July 24, 1979, directs the Department of Social Services to implement a Centralized Delivery System for public assistance programs in all counties by July 1, 1984. The Department has established an organization to complete the tasks mandated by AB 8 and to address the issues and problems resulting from the mandate.

One such issue concerns current and proposed EDP activities in the counties. The Department has considered this issue and developed the following policy which is intended to minimize the development of new EDP systems while allowing essential program needs to be met. This policy is effective immediately:

1. Activities to operate and maintain existing systems in the counties will continue to be subject to funding as prescribed under existing controls and procedures.
2. Development activities will be allowed only if the county or state can demonstrate a need which must be met before the Centralized Delivery System is scheduled to become operational. If allowed, development will have to conform to the following criteria --
 - a. The county shall make essential limited modifications to their existing system to keep it operating until the Central Delivery System becomes operational.
 - b. If the county cannot make the essential modifications, they should adopt an existing system or subsystem which will meet their essential needs and which will be compatible with the Central Delivery System. In situations where this type of development is allowed, the county shall adopt the existing system with a minimum of modifications to facilitate later conversion of counties with the same system to the Central Delivery System.

- c. If the county cannot do either a. or b., they may develop a cost beneficial system compatible with the Central Delivery System.
- d. If the county cannot do any of the above, they may develop other cost beneficial systems or subsystems to meet essential needs.

Requests for funding of development activities currently pending State or Federal approval will be reevaluated using the criteria described above. County EDP Bureau staff will contact the originators of such requests if additional information is required before a decision can be made. Bureau staff will advise originators of the status of their request within two weeks of the date of this letter.

New requests for funding of development activities should be made using the currently established process which requires a Statement of Problem as the initial step. The Statement of Problem should clearly describe why the county must undertake development activity before the Central Delivery System becomes operational. All requests will be reviewed jointly by County EDP staff, program and fiscal staff as it is done under the current process.

If you have any questions about this policy or about the process for requesting approval to claim for development activities, please contact your county's representative in the County EDP Bureau at 916/445-0180.

Sincerely,



JOE KELLY
Deputy Director
Centralized Delivery
System Project

cc: CWDA