

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



September 10, 1986

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE No. 1-85-86

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE AFDC NOTICE OF ACTION TWO COLUMN
FORMAT

REFERENCE: ACL 86-57

The court approved Plan for Implementation of the Turner v McMahon Consent Decree Regarding AFDC Notices of Action was previously sent to you in ACL 86-57 dated June 30, 1986. As part of that Plan, the Department of Social Services (DSS) agreed to evaluate the implementation of a two column format for Notices of Action. The evaluation was to be based on: 1) county estimates of the cost of implementing the two column format, and 2) a field test of the format with recipients.

County Estimates

The decision has been made not to go forward with a request for new county estimates. In discussions with counties the following points became clear:

1. It is an expensive and time consuming process for counties to produce detailed estimates.
2. Automated counties have a long range date for implementing the two column format (January 1, 1992) and estimates developed now may not be valid when the conversion is finally made.
3. New estimates would probably not vary significantly from the initial estimates developed in response to the questionnaire which was completed in November 1985 (see ACIN I-80-85, October 17, 1985).

Given the above considerations, DSS has decided not to ask for a re-estimate.

Format Study

The field test of the two column format is being conducted during the last two weeks of August. DSS staff are visiting 15 counties and interviewing applicants and recipients. We hope to interview approximately 600 clients. The object of

the test is to ensure that the two column format meets the Turner criteria for increased client readability. The data will be compiled and evaluated during September.

The results of the format study in conjunction with the initial county estimates will be used to make a final format decision by October 1, 1986.

If you have any questions about the estimates or the format study, contact Dianne Edwards, Chief, AFDC and Food Stamp Policy Implementation Bureau, at (916) 322-5330 or ATSS 492-5330.



ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA