

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



June 12, 1989

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: I-37-89

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: SB 2579 - 185 PERCENT PROGRAM

The purpose of this letter is to share information about an expansion of the Medi-Cal-only program for some pregnant women and infants under one year old. This letter provides County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with an overview of Senate Bill 2579 (SB 2579) (Chapter 980, Statutes of 1988) which the Department of Health Services (DHS) will implement July 1, 1989. It is the intent of SB 2579 (185 Percent Program) to increase provider participation and encourage perinatal care to lower the risk of serious health problems in infants. This will be accomplished in the following ways: (1) increased reimbursement rates for non-caesarean section obstetric services by up to 18% effective on January 1, 1989, (2) by targeting an outreach program to high-risk pregnant women, and (3) by expanding and expediting Medi-Cal eligibility.

This bill requires the DHS to adopt the federal Medicaid option available through the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (OBRA - 87) to extend Medi-Cal eligibility to all otherwise eligible pregnant women and infants up to the age of one year whose family incomes do not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Under the 185 Percent program and regardless of whether there is AFDC deprivation, otherwise eligible pregnant women and infants under one year whose family income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level will be eligible to receive Medi-Cal with no share of cost. The DHS will be sending the attached stuffer to all Medi-Cal beneficiaries, including those receiving AFDC cash assistance, with the July Medi-Cal cards. Should an individual contact an AFDC worker for information about the 185 Percent program, please refer him/her to the appropriate county Medi-Cal worker.

Should you have any questions or need additional information about the 185 Percent program, please contact Yvonne Lee or Marlene Ratner of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch at (916) 323-6954 or (916) 324-4957 respectively. Thank you for your cooperation.

Robert A. Horel  
Deputy Director  
Department of Social Services

Frank S. Martucci, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch  
Department of Health Services

**NEW MEDICAL PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN PREGNANT WOMEN  
AND BABIES UNDER ONE YEAR OLD  
(185 PERCENT PROGRAM)**

Are you (or anyone you know) pregnant or have a baby under one year old? If so, beginning July 1, 1989, a new program goes into effect. It will allow some pregnant women and babies, who would have had a share of cost (deductible), to now receive Medi-Cal at no share of cost for their maternity care and the baby's first year of medical care.

This new program will allow the family's monthly income to be higher for pregnant women and babies under one year old than for people who are on other Medi-Cal programs. Even if the family is working or has other monthly income, the pregnant woman or baby may still be eligible under this new program.

For the health and well-being of both the pregnant woman and her unborn child, early and regular medical care is very important.

For more information about whether you (or someone you know) can receive these Medi-Cal benefits, please contact your county welfare office.

**UN PROGRAMA NUEVO DE MEDI-CAL PARA CIERTAS MUJERES  
EMBARAZADAS Y NIÑOS MENORES DE UN AÑO DE EDAD  
(Programa del 185 Por Ciento)**

¿Está usted (o alguien que usted conoce) embarazada o tiene un niño menor de un año de edad? Si es así, un programa nuevo entra en vigor a partir del 1 de julio de 1989. Este programa ahora les permitirá a algunas mujeres embarazadas y bebés, quienes habrían tenido que pagar parte del costo (deducible), recibir Medi-Cal sin costo por cuidado de maternidad y el primer año de cuidado médico del bebé.

Este programa nuevo permitirá a las familias con mujeres embarazadas y niños menores de un año de edad, tener ingresos mensuales más altos que las personas que reciben Medi-Cal a través de otros programas. Aun cuando la familia esté trabajando o tenga otros ingresos mensuales, es posible que la mujer embarazada o el bebé aún reúna los requisitos de este programa nuevo.

El cuidado médico a tiempo y sistemático es muy importante para la salud y el bienestar de la mujer embarazada y el niño que espera.

Si quiere saber si usted (o alguien que usted conoce) puede recibir estos beneficios de Medi-Cal, por favor comuníquese con su departamento de bienestar del condado.