

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



October 6, 2003

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 03-52

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL COUNTY CHILD WELFARE DIRECTORS  
 ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
 ALL WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS  
 ALL COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS  
 ALL COUNTY CAL-LEARN PROGRAM COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change  
 Federal Law or Regulation  
 Change  
 Court Order  
 Clarification Requested by  
 One or More Counties  
 Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND  
 RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) FAMILY REUNIFICATION  
 (FR) PROGRAM – REVISED MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY STATUS AND  
 AID CODE DEFINITIONS

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 11203; AB 429,  
 CHAPTER 111, STATUTES OF 2001, AND ALL COUNTY LETTER  
 (ACL) 02-36

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties of a policy change in Medi-Cal eligibility status for adult recipients of CalWORKs FR services. This letter also includes aid codes for FR families.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) has advised the California Department of Social Services that FR adult participants will not be eligible for Medi-Cal, reversing previous policy released in All County Letter 02-36 to counties. The federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid notified DHS that children in this situation would not be considered temporarily absent under prior Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) rules, and therefore the parents are not automatically eligible for cash-based Medi-Cal. When the parent is assigned the new FR codes, the Medi-Cal eligibility worker will reevaluate the case to determine whether the parent's Medi-Cal will continue under another Medi-Cal only aid code such as blind, disabled, pregnant or whether they will no longer be eligible for Medi-Cal benefits.

BACKGROUND

Assembly Bill 429, Chapter 111, Statutes of 2001, allows continuation of CalWORKs services for the parent(s) of children who have been removed from the home by Child Welfare Services if the county determines the services are necessary for FR. These CalWORKs

funded services are part of an FR plan or welfare to work plan established by the county pursuant to Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) 42-711.61, and may continue for 180 days. These services may be extended beyond 180 days for good cause until services are terminated by the court. The services provided will be Welfare-to-Work activities, including mental health and substance abuse treatment or any other activities allowable under CalWORKs and also supportive services. For purposes of AB 429 family reunification, these services can be provided to otherwise CalWORKs eligible families based on the child(ren) being temporarily absent from the home, but anticipated to return within 180 days. Family reunification families are not eligible to receive a CalWORKs cash grant

#### AID CODES AND DEFINITIONS

The FR aid codes and their definitions are as follows:

**4P CalWORKs Family Reunification – All Families:** Provides for continuance of CalWORKs services (no cash aid) to all families except two-parent families when the only eligible child or all eligible children has/have been removed from the home and is receiving out-of-home care, and the county has determined that provision of CalWORKs services is necessary for family reunification.

**4R CalWORKs Family Reunification – Two Parent:** Provides for continuance of CalWORKs services (no cash aid) to two-parent families when the only eligible child or all eligible children has/have been removed from the home and is receiving out-of-home care, and the county has determined that provision of CalWORKs services is necessary for family reunification.

Recent non-citizens are to be reported as either 4P or 4R, whichever is applicable, when the county has determined that the provision of CalWORKs services is necessary for reunification. For example, cases with aid code 30 (CalWORKs Family Reunification – All Families) are to be transferred to aid code 4P (CalWORKs – Family Reunification – All Families) during the FR period. Similarly, cases with aid code 3E (CalWORKs Legal Immigrants – All Families) should also be transferred to aid code 4P during that period.

#### Eligibility for Other Programs or Services

FR parents may also be eligible for other programs or services such as General Assistance, Food Stamps or County Medical Services. The county should review eligibility for these programs on a case-by-case basis.

#### Implementation Date

These aid codes are available in Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) effective September 2003. Counties can use these aid codes to identify FR families retroactive to October 1, 2001, the first date that counties could provide FR services to eligible individuals.

Effect on Employment Services Workers – Time Reporting

As indicated in County Fiscal Letter No. 02/03-14, dated September 20, 2002, no new programs codes have been established on the County Expense Claim for tracking FR costs. Instead, aid codes 4R and 4P will identify the applicable FR adult population on MEDS. County staff are to continue to time study in the same manner as prior to establishment of aid codes 4P and 4R. For instructions on reporting FR services expenditures, please refer to CFL No. 02/03-14, dated September 20, 2002.

If you have questions or need additional information about the provision of FR services, please contact the program analysts listed below responsible for the program area in which you are interested.

CONTACTS

CalWORKs Eligibility	Ruth Van Den Berg (916) 654-1786 CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau
Child Welfare Services	Barbara Edgar (916) 323-0470 Permanency Policy Branch
Fiscal Systems	Fiscal Policy Bureau (916) 657-3440
Medi-Cal Eligibility	Margie Buzdas (916) 552-9481 Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch
Welfare-to-Work Requirements	Randy Shiroi (916) 654-1527 Employment Bureau
Work Services	Daisy Braxton (916) 654-1424 Work Support Services Bureau

Sincerely,

*Original signed by  
Bruce Wagstaff on 10/6/03*

BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division

c: CWDA  
CSAC