

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



July 19, 2006

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 06-22

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

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: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING CALWORKS HURRICANE
KATRINA EVACUEES

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE DATED OCTOBER 19, 2005, I-69-05

This letter is to advise counties of actions needed to identify Hurricane Katrina evacuees who have applied for CalWORKs and therefore have Medi-Cal linkage, so that the state can seek federal funding as a reimbursement for Medi-Cal services provided to these evacuees. We are asking affected counties to provide the requested information no later than July 31, 2006. This expedited timeframe is necessary because of an unexpected review by the Office of Inspector General. We apologize for this short timeframe. Counties that do not have a Katrina caseload may disregard this request for information.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have made available to host states a Section 1115 Expedited Model Waiver Application to provide Medicaid (Medi-Cal) coverage for Hurricane Katrina evacuees. The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) has entered into the waiver. The benefit to California for entering into the waiver is that 100 percent of the Medi-Cal costs for Katrina evacuees can be covered, rather than the normal 50/50 percent split for regular Medi-Cal. These evacuees may have arrived in California through formal FEMA processes, private assistance, or on their own as Hurricane Katrina has resulted in the evacuation of many people from the areas of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Because of the automatic linkage of CalWORKs recipients to Medi-Cal, data suggests that there are well over 1,900 Hurricane Katrina evacuees receiving Medi-Cal services in California.

Terms of the Federal Medi-Cal Waiver

Hurricane Katrina evacuees covered under the waiver must have applied for CalWORKs linked Medi-Cal any time between August 24, 2005, and January 31, 2006. Evacuees that applied for CalWORKs after January 31, 2006, are not covered under the

waiver. Hurricane Katrina waiver coverage starts the month evacuees were determined to be eligible for CalWORKs/Medi-Cal but no sooner than September 2005, and runs no later than May 2006. Under the waiver, eligibility for federal Medi-Cal reimbursement is limited to a total of five months during this nine-month period.

Tracking/Claiming of the Medi-Cal Costs

One of the terms and conditions of the waiver is that California must track and claim the Medicaid expenditures for Hurricane Katrina evacuees based on the home state (Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana) of the evacuee, as the home state will be responsible for the Medicaid costs attributable to its evacuees. Therefore, it is necessary to identify the home state of each of the Hurricane Katrina evacuees:

Full Scope Medi-Cal Evacuees

Evacuees who meet the eligibility requirements for full scope Medi-Cal under the waiver shall be granted Medi-Cal benefits under aid code 65. Counties will specify a home state for those in aid code 65 in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS).

CalWORKs Linked Medi-Cal Evacuees

For evacuees who meet eligibility requirements due to categorical eligibility for receipt of CalWORKs assistance, the process for identifying and reporting the Hurricane Katrina evacuees will vary depending on the resources of the county. Some counties have an automated means of identifying the Hurricane Katrina evacuees, while others must do so through manual case reviews or other manual process.

CalWORKs Required Reporting Format

Because of the differences in identification capabilities, it is necessary for each county with Hurricane Katrina evacuees to produce a comma delimited file with a .csv extension using the following record layout:

SSN, CIN, XX, BeneID, Aid Code, MMYYYY

- SSN is the Social Security Number of the CalWORKs client.
- CIN is the Client Index Number.
- XX is the 2 digit alpha designation of the home state – LA, AL, MS.
- BeneID is the County Identification Number.
- Aid Code is the type of CalWORKs cash aid.
- MMYYYY is the month and year of CalWORKs enrollment and will be used to identify five months during the nine months of coverage under the waiver

The SSN, home state indicator, and the month and year of initial CalWORKs eligibility are essential fields.

Evacuee Reporting Process and Contact

Counties should therefore begin submitting the flat file report for all of their CalWORKs Hurricane Katrina eligibles. CDSS encourages the counties to take the necessary precautions to ensure safe delivery of the data to DHS. This information must be

submitted electronically as an attached file to Richard Brantingham, California Department of Health Services (CDHS), at rbrantin@dhs.ca.gov.

CDHS will track the reports from CalWORKs and will submit Medi-Cal claiming information to CMS as reports are received from the counties. All reports (flat files) should be received by CDHS no later than July 31, 2006. Upon receipt of this information by the CDHS Information Technology Systems Division (ITSD), these identifiers will be run against the Medi-Cal paid claims files to determine the Medi-Cal costs attributable to the Hurricane Katrina evacuees from each of the three home states.

Program Contacts

If you have any questions or need further information regarding the Hurricane Katrina Evacuee Waiver reporting requirements, please contact Richard Brantingham, Section Chief, Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch, Department of Health Services, at (916) 552-9441 or by email at rbrantin@dhs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

CHARR LEE METSKER, Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

c: CWDA
CSAC