

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



June 9, 1995

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 95-26  
Medi-Cal All County Welfare Directors' Letter  
95-36n

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT OF 1993

REFERENCE: All County Information Notice No. I-46-94/Medi-Cal  
All County Welfare Directors' Letter

This letter provides implementation instructions to the County Welfare Departments (CWDs) on the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993 which requires voter registration services at all public assistance (Aid to Families with Dependent Children [AFDC], Food Stamp, Medi-Cal, and Women, Infants and Children [WIC]) offices.

On May 4, 1995, the U.S. District Court ordered the State to implement its previously submitted implementation plan within 45 days. A copy of the relevant section of the plan is enclosed. As a result of the court's order, the NVRA must be implemented no later than June 19, 1995, except for the counties of Kings, Merced, Monterey and Yuba which shall implement when and to the extent that preclearance is obtained by the State of California in accordance with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

All County Information Notice (ACIN) I-46-94/Medi-Cal All County Welfare Directors' Letter, dated December 7, 1994, provided counties with initial notification of the NVRA which was effective as federal law on January 1, 1995. This letter follows up on the information provided in the December ACIN. The California Department of Social Services and the Department of Health Services will not be issuing regulations.

The NVRA requires that a mail voter registration form be provided at the time of application, redetermination or recertification and when there is a change of address. The CWDs

must provide the instruction and declination form, must assist clients in completing the mail voter registration form when requested to do so and must forward the completed, pre-addressed mail voter registration forms within specified timeframes. Federally-mandated confidentiality standards require that mail voter registration forms and all other voter registration materials must be separate from AFDC, Food Stamp, Medi-Cal, and WIC program forms.

The state plan of implementation adopted by the Court includes the "flagging" of questionable registration forms where the county has specific knowledge that the applicant does not meet voter eligibility requirements, including citizenship. The procedures for flagging are being developed and will be provided in a separate letter. Please note that no applicant is to be refused the right to complete the registration form. Decisions regarding registration will be made by the county registrar or the Secretary Of State.

The Secretary of State, as the Chief Elections Official in California, and the county registrars of voters, will provide training materials, forms, and voter registration procedures.

#### Fiscal Claiming

So long as the federal courts continue to require California to implement the provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the state will participate in the non-federal costs of implementation at normal sharing ratios for the AFDC, Food Stamp and Medi-Cal Programs. Counties should follow claiming procedures outlined in County Fiscal Letter (CFL) 94/95-43. Additional claiming instructions will be provided in the upcoming September 1995 quarter claim letter to be issued by the Fiscal Policy Bureau.

If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact Ellen O'Connor in the Food Programs Branch at (916) 653-5420 or Marlene King in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Program Branch at (916) 657-0134.



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FRANK S. MARTUCCI  
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Enclosure