

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

December 21, 1995  
ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 95- 80



TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

<u>REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Law Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Court Order
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and Food Stamp Program (FS) Policy Regarding Treatment of Suspended Supplementary Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP) Benefits

REFERENCE: AFDC MPP 82-832.15 - Excluded by Law Due to Receipt of Other Aid  
FS MPP 63-402.225 - SSI/SSP Status

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification to counties regarding the AFDC and FS Programs' treatment of individuals who are suspended from receiving SSI/SSP benefits by the Social Security Administration (SSA) due to their failure to meet an eligibility factor.

Recent changes in the SSI Program have led to inquiries from counties regarding AFDC and FS Program eligibility for individuals whose SSI/SSP benefits are suspended. New SSI rules preclude an SSI payment for beneficiaries who are determined disabled based on Drug and Alcohol Addiction (D&AA) when they fail to comply with rehabilitation treatment requirements.

### AFDC PROGRAM

The Administration for Children and Families, Region IX advises us that SSI recipients who are suspended from receiving an SSI payment under the new SSI rules are to be treated the same as those whose payments are suspended due to failure to meet eligibility criteria. Therefore, in these D&AA suspended cases individuals are not precluded from receiving AFDC due to receipt of other aid (MPP 82-832.15). They may receive AFDC if otherwise eligible.

Once AFDC is granted, the individual's Medi-Cal benefits are linked to his/her AFDC eligibility. Counties will need to follow the State Department of Health Services' instruction regarding initiating Medi-Cal aid code changes to the State Medical Eligibility Data System (MEDS).

### FS PROGRAM

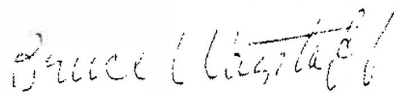
For FS Program purposes, individuals whose SSI/SSP benefits are suspended are not eligible to receive FS benefits. MPP 63-402.225 states that once a person begins receiving SSI/SSP benefits that person will remain ineligible for FS benefits even during periods of

nonreceipt or suspension of SSI/SSP payments. FS eligibility would only be restored when the person is actually terminated from SSI/SSP.

## CONTACTS

If you have questions, please contact Julie Lopes at (916) 654-1786 for AFDC issues, for Medi-Cal issues Mary Maestas-Sandoval at (916) 657-1248, and Maria Tarango at (916) 654-1883 for FS issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Wagstaff".

BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare Programs Division