

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



November 1, 1996

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 96-60

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

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: GRANT CUTS AND REGIONALIZED GRANTS FOR THE AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (AFDC) PROGRAM

**REFERENCES: MPP 40-187, 44-115 44-211 and 44-315
Assembly Bill (AB) 1608, Chapter 307, Statutes of 1995
Senate Bill (SB) 1780, Chapter 206, Statutes of 1996**

Introduction

The purpose of this letter is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with emergency regulations, implementation instructions, Notices of Action (NOAs) and mass informing stuffers necessary to implement statewide grant cuts and regionalized grants in the AFDC program effective January 1, 1997. These instructions are being issued in anticipation of federal approval of the California Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan. This letter will serve as the only notification to counties of these changes unless the Plan is not accepted. We expect to receive the necessary certification of completeness by the federal government by the end of November, 1996.

The attached emergency regulations provide for a reduction in Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) amounts used in cash assistance programs statewide by 4.9%. In addition, counties are divided into two regions based on the lowest quartile rents as reported on the 1990 Census. For counties in Region 2, there will be a further 4.9% reduction in MAP amounts and a 4.9% reduction in Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC) amounts.

This letter includes:

ATTACHMENT	SUBJECT
1	A summary of the changes and implementation instructions
2	A copy of the proposed regulations
3	Copies of the required mass informing stuffers
4	Copies of the applicable NOAs
5	A summary of the changes in MAP and MBSAC in tabular form

Mass Informing Stuffer

There are two mass informing stuffers. Copies are included in this package. The TEMP 2134 is for use in Region 1 counties. The TEMP 2134A is designed for Region 2 counties. The stuffers provide information about the changes in cash aid standards and act as an advance alert to recipients. The stuffer includes the State's toll-free number. Those calling the number will hear a taped message concerning the changes. The taped message can be accessed in both English and Spanish. The stuffer must be sent to current recipients so that it is received no later than December 21, 1996. Upon county request, the CDSS Forms Management Unit will supply camera-ready copies of the stuffer in English and Spanish.

Cash Aid NOAs

Copies of the applicable cash aid NOAs (ATTACHMENT 4) are included in this package. Implementation instructions for these NOAs are also included. Notices are provided in English and Spanish.

Translated Forms and NOAs

The CDSS Language Services Bureau will send camera-ready copies of all forms and NOAs as translated into Cambodian, Vietnamese and Chinese to the applicable County Forms Coordinator upon request. Such translations are available approximately 30 days from the date of this letter.

Food Stamps

Adjustments in Food Stamp benefits resulting from cash aid changes are considered a mass change as provided in MPP 63-504.392. The mass informing stuffer contains the information necessary to advise Food Stamp recipients of benefit changes. An individual Notice of Change (DFA 377.4) is not required if the sole reason for the change in benefits is the MAP change itself.

California Work Pays Demonstration Project (CWDP) Research Counties (Alameda, San Joaquin, San Bernardino and Los Angeles)

Cases assigned to experimental status will be subject to the cash aid changes. Cases in control status will not be subject to the changes and will continue to be paid using the July 1992 MAP and MBSAC standards. It is recommended that the mass informing stuffer not be sent to cases in control status. However, if this is not possible, the county may add the following language to the stuffer:

"If you are a member of the control group of the California Work Pays Demonstration Project, these changes do not apply to you."