

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, M.S. 19-96, Sacramento, California 95814

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

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

May 18, 2006

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 06-11

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CAPI PROGRAM MANAGERSSUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR CASH ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS (CAPI) RECIPIENTS WHO
ARE CHARGED WITH IN-KIND SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE
INCOME

REFERENCE: ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-77-05

The purpose of this All-County Letter is to instruct counties to issue supplemental payments to certain Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) recipients who received a reduction in their CAPI payments during the period January through March 2006 due to the increase in the in-kind income that was used to calculate their CAPI benefit and the temporary freezing of the CAPI payment standards for this same period.

BACKGROUND

The Budget Act of 2005 (Senate Bill 68, Chapter 78, statutes of 2005) delayed the pass-through of the federal Supplemental Security Income Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) from January until April 2006. Consequently, the total combined Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) payment standards remained the same for January through March 2006 as they were in December 2005. CAPI payment standards, which are \$10.00 less than SSI/SSP payment standards (\$20.00 less for couples), were likewise frozen for the same period.

As a result of the January 2006 federal SSI COLA and federal SSI regulations, the presumed maximum value (PMV) of the in-kind support and maintenance income received by some SSI/SSP recipients also increased by the 4.1 percent

federal COLA effective January 1, 2006. This caused the PMV to increase by \$8.00 for Individuals for a total of \$221.00, and by \$11.67 for couples for a total of \$321.33 (\$5.83 increase for each couple member), which in turn caused a concurrent reduction in SSI/SSP benefits for affected recipients. The State has decided that SSI/SSP recipients who receive a reduction in their SSI/SSP payments as a result of being charged the increased PMV during the three-month period will receive a special State-issued payment to make up for that reduction. This special supplemental payment will be issued to affected SSI/SSP recipients after April 1, 2006.

CAPI recipients are affected in a similar fashion. However, due to retrospective budgeting, CAPI benefits may not actually be reduced due to the January PMV increase until the March 2006 payment.

POLICY

Any CAPI recipient who received a reduction in his or her CAPI benefit during the period January 2006 through March 2006 as a direct result of being charged the increased PMV amount is entitled to a supplemental payment. The amount of the supplemental payment is equal to the amount of the reduction caused solely by the increased PMV during this period-up to a maximum of \$24.00.

COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES

Counties must review cases as early as administratively feasible, but no later than the time of the next scheduled redetermination, to determine if a CAPI recipient meets the requirement for a supplemental payment, determine the amount, and issue any payment due.

A recipient is entitled to a supplemental payment if he or she:

- Received a CAPI payment during all or any of the three months during the period January through March 2006, and
- Was charged with the increased PMV amount for any of the three months, and
- His or her CAPI payment was reduced for any or all of the three months due to the increased PMV.

The amount of the CAPI supplemental payment equals the number of months the CAPI payment was reduced (1, 2, or 3) due to the increased PMV times the amount of the PMV increase (\$8.00 for individuals; \$5.83 for couple members).

The following suggested language can be used to explain the supplemental payment when it is issued.

We are sending this warrant to reimburse you for the monthly reduction in your CAPI benefit for the months of January, February and/or March 2006.

* This is a one time payment and no additional benefits are due. We apologize for any inconvenience.

* The amount of the payment was based solely upon the increase of the in-kind support and maintenance income used to determine your CAPI benefit for each of the three months.

Any questions regarding these policy instructions should be directed to your Operations and Technical Assistance Analyst at (916) 229-4000.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH M. CARLIN
Acting Deputy Director
Disability and Adult Programs Division

