



CDSS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

April 2, 2009

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: I-26-09

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: **CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS (CAPI)
PAYMENT STANDARDS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009**

REFERENCE: **ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-93-08;
ACIN I-23-09**

The purpose of this notice is to advise counties of a change in the payment standards for CAPI as a result of the recent budget signed by the Governor.

BACKGROUND

On February 20, 2009, the Governor signed into law Senate Bill X3 6 (Chapter 13, Statutes of 2009). Under this new law, the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP) payment standards were reduced back to the December 2008 levels, effective May 1, 2009 and subject to a further conditional reduction effective July 1, 2009. As required by Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 18941, the CAPI payment standards are based on the SSI/SSP payment standards, minus \$10.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a couple. Consequently, there was a decrease in the CAPI payment standards effective May 1, 2009. The rates for those living in Title XIX medical facilities, and the Non-Medical Out-of-Home Care living arrangements are exempt. The CAPI payment standards that will become effective on May 1, 2009 are the direct result of the new Budget reduction on the SSI/SSP rates.

All-County Information Notice No. I-23-09, dated March 23, 2009, announced the possibility of an additional 2.3 percent reduction to the SSI/SSP payment standards effective July 1, 2009. This reduction was subject to rescission by the Director of the Department of Finance (DOF). The DOF has indicated that the additional 2.3 percent reduction provision will NOT be rescinded. As a result, effective July 1, 2009, the SSI/SSP payment standards will be reduced by 2.3 percent thereby causing a reduction in the CAPI payment standards effective the same month. The new CAPI payment standards chart effective July 1, 2009 is attached.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

The rates for those living in Title XIX medical facilities or in a Non-Medical Out-of-Home Care living arrangement are exempt from the reduction. The July 1, 2009 reduction will have no effect on the following values: 1) presumed maximum value of in-kind support and maintenance; 2) the allowance for ineligible children in deeming situations; 3) the sponsor's allocation in alien deeming situations; or 4) the allowance for parent(s) in parent-to-child deeming situations.

COORDINATION WHEN ONE SPOUSE RECEIVES SSI/SSP

As stated above, WIC Section 18941 requires CAPI benefits to be equivalent to SSI/SSP benefits, except that the CAPI payment standards must be \$10.00 less for an individual and \$20.00 less for a couple. A unique situation arises when one member of a couple receives SSI/SSP and the other receives CAPI. All-County Letter No. 99-13 addressed this situation by requiring counties to count the SSI/SSP benefits received by one member as income while using a special payment standard that is \$10.00 less than the SSI/SSP payment standard for a couple. The intended result of this policy is that a CAPI/SSI/SSP couple receive combined benefits that total \$10.00 less than the SSI/SSP benefit rate for a couple, as required by WIC Section 18941.

However, the intended result will NOT occur for a CAPI/SSI/SSP couple if normal retrospective budgeting of the spouse's SSI/SSP benefit is used to determine CAPI payment in the effective month of a reduction and the subsequent month. For example, using a July reduction, under normal retrospective counting rules, the CAPI recipient's July and August payments would be computed using the spouse's SSI/SSP benefit from May and June respectively, which is before the SSI/SSP reduction in July. This would result in the CAPI/SSI/SSP couple receiving lower combined benefits in July and August than either the SSI/SSP or CAPI couple.

In order to comply with WIC Section 18941, counties are hereby instructed, for CAPI/SSI/SSP couples, to prospectively budget the spouse's SSI/SSP benefit in the month that a reduction occurs and the subsequent month. Using a July reduction for example, the CAPI recipient's July payment should be computed using the spouse's SSI/SSP July payment, and the CAPI recipient's August payment should be computed using the spouse's SSI/SSP August payment.

RECIPIENT NOTIFICATION

The “Notice of Change Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants” (NA 692) must be sent to CAPI recipients notifying them of the payment standard reduction that is effective July 1, 2009. Under “Change in Benefits” or “Discontinuance”, check the “Other” box and enter the following language:

“A state law passed which resulted in a reduction of CAPI benefits (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 12200 et.seq).”

Any questions regarding these adjustments should be directed to Teri Harness, Program Analyst, or Marshall Browne, Manager, Operations and Technical Assistance Unit at (916) 229-3494.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

EVA L. LOPEZ
Deputy Director
Adult Programs Division

c: CWDA

Attachment

CAPI PAYMENT STANDARDS

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009

BASED ON JULY 2009 SSI/SSP STANDARDS

Includes no pass-through of the CPI COLA, suspension of the CNI COLA, and 2.3% reduction to SSI/SSP grant

	INDEPENDENT LIVING			REDUCED NEEDS			NON-MEDICAL OUT-OF-HOME CARE (NMOHC)					
	RESIDING IN OWN HOUSEHOLD			HOUSEHOLD OF ANOTHER WITH IN-KIND ROOM & BOARD			HOUSEHOLD OF RELATIVE WITH IN-KIND ROOM & BOARD AND CERTIFIED NMOHC			IN LICENSED FACILITY OR HOUSEHOLD OF RELATIVE WITHOUT IN-KIND ROOM & BOARD		
	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP
INDIVIDUAL:												
AGED OR DISABLED	840.00		850.00	633.52		643.52	846.34		856.34	1,076.00		1,086.00
- without cooking facilities (RMA) 1/	924.00		934.00									
BLIND	903.00		913.00	712.66		722.66	846.34		856.34	1,076.00		1,086.00
DISABLED MINOR												
- living with parent(s)	729.00		739.00	510.42		520.42			856.34	1,076.00		1,086.00
- living with non-parent relative or non-relative guardian							846.34		856.34	1,076.00		1,086.00
COUPLE:	BOTH CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	BOTH SSI/SSP	BOTH CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	BOTH SSI/SSP	BOTH CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	BOTH SSI/SSP	BOTH CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	BOTH SSI/SSP
AGED OR DISABLED												
- per couple	1,469.00	1,479.00	1,489.00	1,184.64	1,194.64	1,204.64	1,699.66	1,709.66	1,719.66	2,152.00	2,162.00	2,172.00
- without cooking facilities (RMA) 1/	1,637.00	1,647.00	1,657.00									
BLIND												
- per couple	1,691.00	1,701.00	1,711.00	1,406.42	1,416.42	1,426.42	1,699.66	1,709.66	1,719.66	2,152.00	2,162.00	2,172.00
BLIND/AGED OR DISABLED												
- per couple	1,608.00	1,618.00	1,628.00	1,322.40	1,332.40	1,342.40	1,699.66	1,709.66	1,719.66	2,152.00	2,162.00	2,172.00

TITLE XIX MEDICAL FACILITY

	Individual	Couple
Total CAPI	\$40	\$80
SSI/SSP	50	100

1/ RMA - Restaurant Meals Allowance - \$84 Individual; \$168 Couple