

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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916) 323-1263



August 16, 1982

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-108-82

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

REFERENCE:

On July 14, 1982, Department of Social Services (DSS) staff met with the County Welfare Director's Association Eligibility and Grant, Fiscal and Services Committees to discuss Emergency Assistance (EA) program implementation in California. Several questions were asked and DSS staff agreed to communicate responses to all counties. These questions and our responses follow:

A. GENERAL ISSUES

1. Question

Will EA cases be subject to quality control reviews?

Answer

At this time, there are no state or federal requirements for EA quality control reviews.

2. Question

How can counties insure that only one month of Emergency Assistance will be paid in a twelve-month period, to a family who moves from county to county?

Answer

No statewide system currently exists which would automatically alert a county concerning emergency assistance eligibility in another county. However, the CA-1 used in EA - Unemployed Parent (EA-UP) cases asks whether the applicant has received or applied for public assistance in the last 12 months. Counties should investigate cases

where aid has been received in the last 12 months. In addition, if the parent or caretaker relative is available and cooperating in the EA - Abused, Neglected or Exploited Children (EA-ANEC) application and eligibility determination process, the social worker or eligibility worker should inquire as to prior receipt of services or assistance and follow-up to determine if EA was received.

3. Question

Is Emergency Assistance limited to 30 days or one calendar month?

Answer

Emergency Assistance payments are limited to one period of up to 30 days during any 12-month period.

4. Question

Are child support requirements the same under the EA Program as they are in the AFDC Program?

Answer

Yes, the AFDC policies and procedures regarding child support shall be applied to applicants for and recipients of EA-UP and EA-FC. (EAS Section 41-500.2).

B. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE - ABUSED, NEGLECTED OR EXPLOITED CHILDREN ISSUES

1. Question

What services to the family can be provided under the EA-ANEC Program when the child has been removed from the home?

Answer

When a child has been removed from the home and determined eligible for EA-ANEC, all time spent by social work staff actually providing and/or arranging for EA - Family Services is to be charged to the EA-ANEC Program, regardless of the family's eligibility status. These services are being provided on behalf of the eligible child and include Social Work, Information and Referral and Transportation Services. However, purchased services other than Emergency Shelter Care and transportation for the child can only be charged to EA-ANEC when the family is receiving AFDC FG/U on the date of application for EA-ANEC.

2. Question

Can EA funds be used to pay foster care retainer fees?

Answer

No, retainer fees are not eligible for reimbursement under the EA Program. Counties are to continue to charge these costs to Other County Social Services.

3. Question

Can EA monies be used to fund foster care payments and services for a child who has been relinquished for adoption?

Answer

Yes, provided the child is in immediate danger of, or is being abused, neglected or exploited and all other EA requirements are met.

4. Question

Is a case eligible for EA when a child is placed by the CWD into a group home because of the child's treatment needs?

Answer

See answer to question #3.

C. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE - UNEMPLOYED PARENT ISSUES1. Question

When the EA-UP eligibility period covers portions of two calendar months, can a single warrant or payment be made for the full period of EA eligibility (not to exceed 30 days)?

Answer

Yes. EAS Section 41-500.62 would allow one payment for a period of 30 days even if the 30 days covers portions of two calendar months.

2. Question

Must aid code 31 be used for claiming the EA-UP payment?

Answer

Since many counties were using aid code 31 for service only cases, we have been able to secure authorization from the Department of Health Services to use aid code 06 for the EA-UP payment (see All-County Letter Errata Notice dated July 20, 1982).

3. Question

Are EA-UP recipients eligible for Food Stamps and, if so, are they considered Public Assistance (PA) or Nonassistance (NA) households?

Answer

EA-UP recipients are eligible for Food Stamps and should be claimed as PA households.

4. Question

Is the recipient of EA-UP to be provided a Notice of Action at the time of eligibility determination and termination.

Answer

When a county determines that a recipient is eligible for EA, a Notice of Action must be sent. In addition, the recipient must be given a notice concerning termination. A single Notice of Action for both occurrences is permitted (22-001). This notice should be given when eligibility is determined and should clearly state the maximum amount of aid and the eligibility period. The notice should also contain a termination date. Specific mandated language for this notice is being developed and will be provided as soon as possible.

5. Question

Can the recipient receive a notice of approval for the State AFDC-U Program at the same time the EA-UP notice is sent?

Answer

No, eligibility for the State AFDC-U Program cannot be determined until the end of the EA-UP period. A notice of approval of State AFDC-U at the time EA-UP is granted would be premature.

6. Question

Does the EA payment month constitute the first month of concurrent budgeting for AFDC-U purposes?

Answer

No, the Emergency Assistance payment period cannot be considered for AFDC-U budgeting purposes.

7. Question

Can EA overpayments be collected through adjustment of subsequent AFDC payments?

Answer

No, EA overpayments cannot be collected from AFDC payments. Such overpayments are to be collected in the same manner as they are in AFDC cases which have been discontinued.

8. Question

Shall EA recipients be eligible to receive the special need allowance for pregnant women?

Answer

Yes, if a pregnant woman, who is qualified to receive Emergency Assistance would qualify for the pregnancy special need payment under the provisions of EAS Section 44-221.4, she is eligible to receive such an allowance under the EA Program (EAS Section 45-500.2).

9. Question

Will duplicate Medi-Cal cards be generated for cases when EA-UP and AFDC-U payments are authorized for the same month?

Answer

A second card for the same month will not be issued in those counties using the MEDS system. For those counties using the CID system, counties should not initiate a second Medi-Cal card. For additional information, contact Connie Farmer (916) 445-1797 ATSS 485-1797.

We appreciate the interest you and your staff have taken in our mutual efforts to implement this program. As additional questions arise, they should be directed to DSS staff as follows:

Program Component

EA-UP and EA-FC

AFDC Program Management Consultant  
(916) 445-4458 (ATSS 485-4458)

EA-FS and EA-ESC

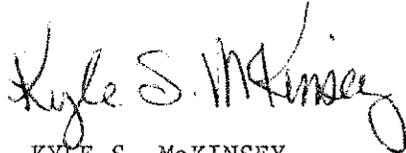
Family and Children's Services Program  
Management Consultant (916) 445-7653  
(ATSS 485-7653)

Program Component

Fiscal Provisions

Fiscal Policy and Procedures Bureau  
(916) 445-7046 (ATSS 485-7046)

Statistical Reporting

Dan Stone (916) 445-3644 (ATSS 485-3644) -  
regarding CA 237 FG/U and CA 237 FCKip Steely (916) 323-2330 (ATSS 473-2330) -  
regarding SOC 291KYLE S. MCKINSEY  
Deputy Director  
Welfare Program Operations

cc: CWDA