

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



May 10, 1996

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO.I-26-96

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: POLICY CHANGES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 2.3% GRANT REDUCTIONS AND EXEMPTION FROM PAST REDUCTIONS

REFERENCE: ACL 96-13

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties about developments regarding implementation of the 2.3% Grant Reduction and Exemptions regulation package. Instructions regarding implementation were provided to counties in All-County Letter (ACL) 96-13. Certain elements of implementation are being changed based on further review of the terms and conditions of the Assistance Payments Demonstration Project/California Work Pays Demonstration Project (APDP/CWPDP) and the provisions of a settlement order in the Beno v. Shalala court case. This case involved a challenge to the waiver granted by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to operate the APDP/CWPDP.

Policy Changes

The policy changes being made are as follows:

- The standards for the Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) exemption due to illness and injury as specified in MPP 42-791 will not be a basis for qualifying for Exempt Assistance Unit (AU) status. However, an illness or injury meeting the standards for GAIN incapacity as specified in MPP 42-793 remains a basis for exemption.
- The standard for the GAIN exemption due to incapacity as specified in MPP 42-793.1 will be modified to require that, when the individual requests exemption due to physical or mental impairment, the verification establish that the impairment is expected to have a duration of at least 30 calendar days.
- The standards for the GAIN exemption due to care of another individual in the household as specified in MPP 42-795 will be a basis for qualifying for Exempt AU status.

- Receipt of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) due to a personal disability will be a basis for qualifying for Exempt AU status.
- County Welfare Department Eligibility Workers (CWD EWs) will be required to make a determination regarding requests for Exempt AU status within specified timeframes. A determination is considered complete when the EW has made a decision regarding exemption status. For requests received before September 1, 1996, the timeframe is 30 calendar days from the date the CWD receives all information necessary to make a decision on the request. For requests received on or after September 1, 1996, the timeframe is 16 calendar days from the date the information is received.

Procedural Changes

The procedural changes are:

- CDSS will mail a follow-up notice to AFDC households to further explain the 2.3% MAP reduction and the standards for AUs to request exempt status and receive the Exempt AU MAP. This notice may be completed and returned by the AU in order to request exemption. A copy of this notice attached.
- CDSS will provide a poster to CWDs for purposes of informing AUs concerning exemption standards until such time as the SAWS 2A and SAWS 7/CA 7 are revised to include elements relating to Exempt AU status.

CDSS will issue a further ACL relating to this implementation. Included in this ACL will be revised regulations, a copy of the follow-up notice, a copy of the required informing poster and a copy of a revised Notice of Action (NOA) to be used for grant decreases due to loss of exempt status. The ACL will also contain further explanation and instructions. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jim Lucas of the AFDC Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 654-1059.

Sincerely,

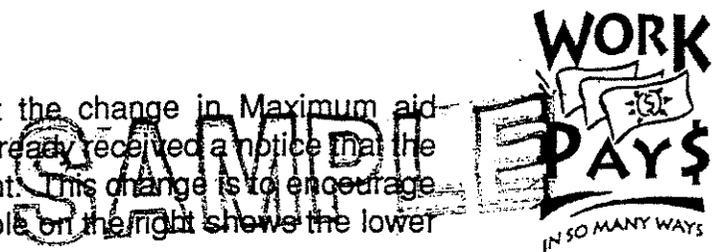


BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division

Attachment

Cash Aid Grants are Changing

This notice will give you more information about the change in Maximum aid Payment (MAP) on June 1, 1996. You may have already received a notice that the MAP for most families will be lowered by 2.3 percent. This change is to encourage recipients who are able to work to take a job. A table on the right shows the lower MAP amount.



You may be exempt from the reduction and may be given more cash aid (see table to the right) if each parent or caretaker relative:

- A. Is caring for an aided child(ren) who is not their child and does not get aid
- B. Is needed to stay at home to care for another household member who is ill, injured or incapacitated
- C. Is getting Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payments (SSI/SSP), or In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), or State Disability Insurance (SDI), or Temporary Worker's Compensation (TWC) or Temporary Disability Indemnity (TDI) benefits, or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or AFDC under their own incapacity
- D. Is under age 19 and enrolled in a program that leads to a high school diploma or its equivalent
- E. Is exempt from GAIN because of incapacity
- F. Is unable to work full time because of incapacity

If you receive a notice that your grant is being cut and all the aided adults in the household meet at least one of the conditions above, contact your worker and request an exemption. You can do this by telephone, or by returning the bottom of this form. Within 30 days from the time you give the County your proof, the County will make a decision.

To keep your grant from being cut while your exemption request is being reviewed, you can ask for a state hearing by calling the number listed on your Notice of Action (NOA) and telling why you think you are exempt. You must ask for a state hearing before your grant is cut or within 10 days of getting the notice that your grant is being cut. If it turns out that you are not exempt, you will owe the County for any cash aid you should not have received.

These new MAP tables show how your cash aid may change. If your cash aid changes, you will get a separate NOA showing how your new grant is figured.

Lower MAPs for families that are not exempt:

Persons on aid	Old MAP	New MAP	Decrease in MAP
1	\$ 299	\$ 293	\$ 6
2	490	479	11
3	607	594	13
4	723	707	16
5	824	806	18
6	926	905	21
7	1017	994	23
8	1108	1083	25
9	1197	1170	27
10 or more	1286	1257	29

Higher MAPs for families that are exempt:

Persons on aid	Old MAP	New MAP	Increase in MAP
1	\$ 299	\$ 326	\$ 27
2	490	535	45
3	607	663	56
4	723	788	65
5	824	899	75
6	926	1010	84
7	1017	1109	92
8	1108	1209	101
9	1197	1306	109
10 or more	1286	1403	117

If you need information about the change in MAP, please call:

- toll-free 1-800-248-8068
- TDD for the hearing impaired 1-800-952-8349

To request an exemption, please complete this part and return it to your worker.

Circle the letter of the exemption(s) that each parent or caretaker relative meets: A B C D E F

CASE NAME:	CASE NUMBER (IF KNOWN)	DATE:
ADDRESS:	CITY:	ZIP CODE:
PHONE NUMBER:	SSN:	