

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



June 18, 2001

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 01-35

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS**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: CalWORKs PROGRAM TREATMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) RECIPIENTS PARTICIPATING UNDER PROVISIONS OF SECTION 1619(b) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

The purpose of this letter is to clarify existing CalWORKs Program policy pertaining to the treatment of certain SSI Program participants. Individuals participating in the SSI Program under the provisions of Section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act shall be considered SSI recipients for purposes of the CalWORKs Program.

The Section 1619(b) program is a program that enables certain disabled individuals to earn up to their reasonable equivalent earnings threshold to meet their needs and remain eligible for SSI Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California). Under the Section 1619(b) program, individuals with earnings over the allowable limit are rendered income ineligible to receive a cash payment of SSI (Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program [SSI/SSP] in California). However, these individuals retain SSI Medicaid eligibility. Federal law states that these individuals are considered to be receiving SSI benefits and that they have a special SSI eligibility status even though they are ineligible for a SSI cash payment.

For purposes of interpreting and applying the CalWORKs Manual of Policies and Procedures Sections 82-832.1(e) and 44-133.21, a person who "receives SSI/SSP" or who is an "SSI/SSP recipient" shall include a person who is considered to be receiving SSI benefits and has special SSI eligibility status under Section 1619(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1382h(b)). As SSI recipients, these individuals must be excluded from the CalWORKs assistance unit, and treated as other SSI recipients who receive SSI benefits. Therefore, the treatment of the individual's income and resources shall be the same as for any other SSI recipients.

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If you have further questions, please contact Bev Skillicorn at (916) 654-1068.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by
Bruce Wagstaff on
6/18/01***

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

c: CWDA
CSAC