DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

October 15, 1987

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 87-142

TO ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN-FOSTER CARE PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESSING

REFERENCE: 45-201.5, 40-107.1, 40-126, 40-157.213

The purpose of this letter is to clarify procedures for processing Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) applications. Two specific areas are addressed in this letter; the timeliness of application processing and county responsibility for determining AFDC-FC eligibility.

AFDC-FC regulations (Eligibility and Assistance Standards [EAS] 45-201.5) require that AFDC-FC applications be processed in accordance with AFDC regulations in EAS Chapter 40-100. EAS Section 40-126 requires that eligibility determinations be completed within 45 days of the application for aid. This is both a Federal and a State requirement and applies to all AFDC-FC applications.

When AFDC-FC applications are made for children placed in out-of-home care, the responsibility for determining eligibility rests with counties. This responsibility includes the gathering of information necessary to establish AFDC-FC eligibility for all applicant children (e.g., information necessary to establish eligibility for Federal AFDC-FC). EAS Sections 40-107.1 and 40-157.213 require that the county provide assistance in establishing eligibility for aid when the applicant, in these situations, the child, is not able to do so. If the child is to be placed with a relative foster parent, the prospective relative foster parent may be requested to assist if the county is unable to obtain the necessary information through its usual methods. However, the request to the relative should be made only after the county has made a good faith effort to obtain the required

information from the child's family or county records. If the relative is unable to assist, the county must continue its efforts to obtain the information necessary to establish AFDC-FC eligibility if AFDC-FC is to granted.

If you have questions regarding this letter or any AFDC-FC application processing issue, please contact the Foster Care Program Bureau at (916) 445-0813 or ATSS 484-0813.

ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA