STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

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

August 23, 1990

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 90-79

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: AFDC HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

REFERENCE: 44-211.5

The purpose of this letter is to discuss two issues identified in a report prepared by the State Office of the Auditor General (OAG) following a review of AFDC Homeless Assistance (HA) which included OAG staff visiting several counties to interview staff and review their procedures and case files. The issues involve: 1) the issuance of HA more than once in a twelve-month period, and 2) the issuance of a permanent housing payment only when evidence of available housing is presented.

With regard to the first issue, the OAG's report indicated that in some cases HA was issued even though there was evidence that the assistance unit (AU) received HA previously within the past twelve months from another county and ended the incident of homelessness. MPP Section 44-211.513 states that an AU is eligible for HA once in a twelve-month period. When a county has evidence, which could be obtained through MEDS, the Homeless Assistance Payment Indicator (HAPI) system or from the Statement of Facts for Homeless Assistance (CA 42), that the AU has received regular AFDC and/or HA from another county, the county is required to follow-up on the information (MPP Section 40-187.224). The follow-up activity must include contact with the other county from which aid was received previously to determine whether or not the AU is actually eligible to HA based on the current application. The county must take a denial action if there is no eligibility to HA. If the county issues HA and subsequently discovers there was no eligibility for HA, the county must assess the AU with an overpayment.

The second issue involves the payment of permanent housing (PH) when an AU presents evidence that affordable housing is available. MPP Section 44-211.531 states that evidence is required to establish that the AU has permanent housing available which does not rent for more than 80 percent of the AU's MAP. A payment for PH is to be made only after the evidence has been presented to the county. The county has one working day to issue or deny a payment for PH from the time that the evidence is presented. When the

evidence appears to be questionable, the county must investigate it to the extent possible. The OAG found that when counties checked the information provided on the evidence, it was sometimes found that the person who signed the statement was not the owner of the property as shown on the evidence. Some counties have used property directories containing owners' names to assist them in this process.

If you have questions concerning HA, please contact Judy Moore of the AFDC and Food Stamp Policy Implementation Bureau at (916) 324-2017 or ATSS 454-2017.

Robert Setteck

for ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA