

## **Important Information for SSI/SSP Applicants**

### **Medi-Cal May Help Pay Past Medical and Dental Bills ("Retroactive Coverage")**

#### **Why is Medi-Cal writing me?**

In California, your application for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) is also an application for health care coverage through the Medi-Cal program. If you are found eligible for SSI/SSP, Medi-Cal may help pay for medical and/or dental covered services you have received in any of the three months before the SSI/SSP application month. This is called "retroactive coverage." To receive this coverage, you must be eligible for Medi-Cal in the month Medi-Cal covered services were provided. If you have already paid for medical and/or dental bills for covered services provided during the three months of the retroactive period, Medi-Cal may also help you get reimbursed.

#### **What do I need to do to get retroactive coverage?**

First, you need to contact your county social services office. A list of county social services offices is enclosed. Call the telephone number listed for your county. The county worker will help you locate the Medi-Cal office close to your home.

#### **What do I tell the county worker?**

Tell the county worker that you have applied for SSI/SSP and that you have past medical and/or dental bills you need help from Medi-Cal to pay. The county will send you the forms that you need to fill out and return to the county social services office.

#### **Who should I contact if I need help filling out the forms?**

Call your county worker and ask for help on how to complete the forms.

#### **How soon should I contact the county social services office?**

You can contact the county social services office now even before you find out if you will receive SSI/SSP benefits. You must contact the county social services office to request retroactive Medi-Cal coverage within one year of the month in which covered services were provided to you. For example, if you received medical and/or dental services any time in October 2016 and applied for SSI in January 2017, you should contact the county social services office to ask for retroactive Medi-Cal coverage by October 31, 2017.

#### **What happens after I send in the forms to the county?**

The county social services office will send you a Notice of Action (NOA) to let you know if you are approved for retroactive Medi-Cal coverage. If you are denied retroactive coverage, the NOA will tell you about your right to ask for a hearing if you do not agree with the decision.

#### **Will Medi-Cal help pay for my past medical and/or dental bills even if I am not found eligible for SSI/SSP?**

Medi-Cal may still be able to help pay for covered medical and/or dental services provided to you in any of the three months before you applied for SSI/SSP. Even if you are not found eligible for SSI/SSP, you can still apply for Medi-Cal by contacting your county social services office.

**Will Medi-Cal seek repayment from my estate?**

The Medi-Cal program must seek repayment from the estates of certain deceased Medi-Cal members for payments made, including managed care premiums, for nursing facility services, home and community-based services, and related hospital and prescription drug services provided to the deceased Medi-Cal member on or after the member's 55<sup>th</sup> birthday. If a deceased member does not leave an estate or owns nothing when they die, nothing will be owed. For more information you may visit the Estate Recovery website at <http://dhcs.ca.gov/er> or call (916) 650-0590.