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DIRECTOR

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Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

October 25, 2022

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 22-24  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS  
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES  
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIA MANAGERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS

SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF ACCELERATED ENROLLMENT TO THE STATEWIDE  
AUTOMATED WELFARE SYSTEM

(References: All County Welfare Directors Letters 08-07, 15-26, 15-28 and 21-32,  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letters I 14-23, 15-11, 15-15 and 15-27.)

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties and the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) with guidance regarding the expansion of Accelerated Enrollment (AE) for children and adults to SAWS. This guidance is in accordance with the settlement in the matter of *Rivera v. Lightbourne*.

## BACKGROUND

In 2015, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) received two court orders as part of the *Rivera* lawsuit that required DHCS to notify applicants of their right, authorized by state and federal law, to file an appeal and request a hearing when a non-disability based Medi-Cal eligibility determination has not been performed within 45 days, unless an exception applies. As a result of this lawsuit, beginning with the 2015 Open Enrollment, DHCS was ordered to issue a Notice of Inaction (NOI) for applicants who have not received a Notice of Action (NOA) resulting from a final Medi-Cal determination within 45 days of filing their application. The NOI is to notify applicants of their right to file an appeal and request a hearing as to why their eligibility determination has not been performed within 45 days. The NOI may be found in MEDIL [I 15-11](#).

On May 10, 2021, a settlement was reached in the *Rivera* lawsuit that requires DHCS to grant Medi-Cal eligibility to applicants who meet all eligibility criteria pending county eligibility verifications. To meet these terms, the Department expanded the expedited enrollment process established for children known as “Accelerated Enrollment” (AE) to adults who submit online applications through the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS) but are pending verifications or by calling the Covered California Service Center. Guidance for the implementation of AE for adults is set out in ACWDL [21-32](#). The Department must also implement the AE process in SAWS within the deadline contained in the *Rivera* settlement agreement. Applying for AE through SAWS will not be possible until programming has been completed.

### **ACCELERATED ENROLLMENT SAWS SYSTEM UPDATES**

The settlement requires SAWS to be updated to allow children and adults to apply via SAWS, including those applying by phone or other methods, and receive AE for MAGI Medi-Cal with aid code 8E. SAWS will submit an Eligibility Determination Request (EDR) to CalHEERS for a determination.

When CalHEERS completes an AE eligibility determination and there are pending verifications, CalHEERS will return a response Determination of Eligibility Request (DER) to the counties. CalHEERS will also post the AE determination in MEDS. Counties must follow existing eligibility determination processes for AE individuals. Counties receive Alert #9546 once an individual is enrolled in AE for over two months. Once the outstanding verifications are verified by counties, the AE individuals are placed in the appropriate MAGI Medi-Cal aid code once the case is processed in SAWS.

### **SYSTEM PROGRAMMING**

SAWS shall make programming changes to facilitate the automation of AE for applications submitted through all SAWS access channels as outlined in this ACWDL by December 2023. DHCS will work with SAWS to facilitate programming of these changes.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or need further information, please contact via email [AcceleratedEnrollment@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:AcceleratedEnrollment@dhcs.ca.gov).

### **Original Signed By**

Sandra Williams, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division