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Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

August 26, 2016

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 16-11

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: CONCLUSION OF 2014-2016 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO EVALUATE
DIRECT CERTIFICATION WITH MEDICAID
(Reference MEDIL I 15-09)

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is to notify participating counties that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Demonstration Project to Evaluate Direct Certification with Medicaid (Demonstration Project) will be discontinued at the local-level between County Welfare Departments (CWDs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs).

Note: Please refer to MEDIL I 15-09 for information regarding county participation in the USDA Medicaid Direct Certification Demonstration Project.

Background

Through the 2014-2016 Demonstration Project, the USDA in collaboration with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services authorized LEAs to request county assistance in conducting an additional Direct Certification match with Medi-Cal. LEAs and counties perform monthly direct certification matches of student enrollment data, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program data, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families data, to automatically enroll eligible children for free school meals. During the 2014-2016 school years (SY), eligible children residing in the participating counties who are identified in the Direct Certification match with Medi-Cal data, are also automatically enrolled for free school meals.

Below is the list of participating local educational agencies for the Counties' records:

School District	County
Cajon Valley USD	San Diego
Fairfield-Suisun USD	Solano
Lassen View ESD	Tehama
New Haven USD	Alameda
Oakland USD	Alameda
Red Bluff JUHSD	Tehama
San Diego USD	San Diego
San Francisco USD	San Francisco
Santa Ana USD	Orange
South Bay USD	San Diego
Vacaville USD	Solano
Vallejo USD	Solano
Washington USD	Yolo
Woodland USD	Yolo

Discontinuance of Local-Level Direct Certification with Medi-Cal Matches

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service, approved California to participate in a new Direct Certification with Medicaid demonstration project, which will replace the current 2014-2016 Demonstration Project. The new SY 2016/17 Demonstration Project will evaluate the impact of using income data, available through public assistance programs, to directly certify students for both free and reduced price meal eligibility through state level data matches. As the new SY 2016/17 Demonstration Project is implemented, CDE will phase-out the current Demonstration Project local-level matches between participating LEAs and Counties.

Beginning October 1, 2016, the LEAs must cease the current direct certification match conducted with the local county agencies using Medi-Cal data. Any agreements, contracts, or memorandums of understanding that were established pursuant to the current 2014-2016 Demonstration Project must be terminated by October 1, 2016.

Demonstration Project Results

The participating counties have been instrumental in the success of this Demonstration Project. As of May 2016, the participating LEAs and Counties were able to directly certify 39,285 eligible students to receive free school meals through the Demonstration Project. Department of Health Care Services and CDE are extremely grateful for your hard work and involvement.

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If you have any questions, or if we can provide further information, please contact Mr. Daniel Nguyen by phone at (916) 327-6670 or by email at daniel.nguyen@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By

Sandra Williams, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division