



TOBY DOUGLAS
Director

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

December 21, 2012

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 12-08

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALIST/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Low Income Health Program (LIHP)

This Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) provides counties with basic information on the LIHP and to remind counties of their responsibility to inform individuals who may be eligible for other programs about this program. Counties should provide LIHP information to applicants and beneficiaries who are determined ineligible to receive benefits under the Medi-Cal program. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) encourages each county to develop a Medi-Cal and LIHP referral and coordination process to facilitate individuals' enrollment into LIHP pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code (W&I), Section 10500. W & I, Section 10500 states:

Every person administering aid under any public assistance program shall conduct himself with courtesy, consideration, and respect toward applicants for the recipients of aid under that program, and shall endeavor at all times to perform his duties in such manner as to secure for every person the amount of aid to which he is entitled, without attempting to elicit any information not necessary to carry out the provisions of law applicable to the program, and without comment or criticism of any fact concerning applicants or recipients not directly related to the administration of the program.

Background

DHCS received approval from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to administer the California's Bridge to Reform, Section 1115(a) Medicaid Demonstration (Demonstration) effective November 1, 2010 to October 31, 2015. The LIHP is a component of the Demonstration which provides health care coverage to eligible low income individuals statewide in preparation for health care reform implementation by

2014. At that time, those individuals covered through LIHP will transition into the Medi-Cal program or the new statewide Health Benefits Exchange under the Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act of 2010. The LIHP is authorized by W & I Code, Sections 14053.7 and 15909-15915.

Basic LIHP Information

LIHP is a voluntary county-funded program administered by the county health department or social services agency. LIHP includes two components distinguished by family income level: Medicaid Coverage Expansion (MCE) and Health Care Coverage Initiative (HCCI). MCE enrollees have family income at or below 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). HCCI enrollees have family income above 133 and up to 200 percent of the FPL. Local LIHPs may elect to operate only a MCE program, but must have a MCE in order to implement a new HCCI. The local LIHP can set the FPL income levels below the maximum allowable amount according to the Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) approved by CMS.

LIHP is an asset waiver program that covers individuals age 19-64. LIHP eligibility and enrollment process for both the MCE and HCCI components require that individuals are ineligible for Medicaid or Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP), not pregnant, meet the income eligibility standards as set by the county, and have proof of U.S. citizenship or satisfactory immigration status. For MCE, an individual may have other health insurance as long as he/she meets the other program requirements for enrollment. For HCCI, an individual must not have other health coverage and meet all other program requirements for enrollment. County participation in LIHP under the Demonstration is optional and based on available local funds. Using an CMS approved claiming process, participating counties will receive federal reimbursement for the local LIHPs' cost of providing health services for eligible programs. The local LIHP must follow all federal Medicaid rules in determining an individual's eligibility, pursuant to the STCs under the Bridge to Reform Demonstration.

The LIHP Division has released a LIHP Policy and Procedures Letter (PPL) #12-004, on Low Income Health Program Eligibility for Individuals Eligible for other Medi-Cal and State Funded Health Care Programs, to provide guidance in determining LIHP eligibility for individuals who are eligible for other health care programs with similar benefits. Medi-Cal program staff shall reference PPL #12-004 to refer potential eligibles to their local LIHP when an individual is determined not eligible for Medi-Cal benefits. All LIHP PPLs are posted on the LIHP webpage, under the Publications section:
<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/lihp.aspx>

Because LIHP is a county-administered and funded program, when an enrollee moves from one participating county to another, the individual will be disenrolled by the county in which he/she no longer resides, and will be required to reapply in the county in which he/she becomes a resident. In addition, some local LIHPs have “branded” their programs and may not refer to them as LIHP. Examples of some of the counties’ branded names are: Los Angeles County - Healthy Way LA (HWLA), Alameda County - Health Program of Alameda County (HealthPAC), Orange County - Medical Services Initiative (MSI) and County Medical Services Program (CMSP) - Path2Health. A complete list of the county LIHP contacts and telephone numbers is available on the DHCS website at:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/LIHP/LIHPConsCntcts62812.pdf>

Currently, 16 counties and 35 County Medical Services Program (CMSP) counties have been approved by CMS to administer a LIHP. The 16 counties are: Alameda, Contra Costa, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Ventura. The 35 CMSP counties are: Amador, Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, San Benito, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, Trinity, Yolo and Yuba. Three counties have withdrawn their application to implement a LIHP and they are: Fresno, Merced and San Luis Obispo. The remaining counties that plan to implement a LIHP will have a program effective date after approval from CMS. The latest LIHP information is available at:

http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/LIHP/Resources/Name-Impl_Date-FPL_10-31-12.pdf

LIHP Aid Code Descriptions

For tracking purposes, DHCS has established six LIHP aid codes to identify individuals enrolled under specific LIHP categories and the aid codes reside in the special program screen in MEDS. Currently, not all LIHPs are reporting LIHP enrollees to the Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) but DHCS is working with LIHPs to report all eligible enrollees to MEDS no later than May 1, 2013. All 35 CMSP counties are identifying Path2Health enrollees in aid code 84.

Aid Code F5: Title XIX, MCE State Inmates. Benefits are limited to hospital inpatient services for inmates in state correctional facilities who received inpatient services off the grounds of the correctional facility. Individual is not pregnant, between 19 and 64 years of age with family income at or below 133 percent of the FPL (as determined by the participating county), not eligible for Medi-Cal or CHIP, and whose county of last legal

residence participates in a MCE program. Note: Eligibility determinations for this population are completed by Medi-Cal Inmate Eligibility Program staff at DHCS.

Aid Code F6: Title XIX, MCE County Inmates. Benefits are limited to hospital inpatient services for inmates in county correctional facilities who received inpatient services off the grounds of the correctional facility. Individual is between 19 and 64 years of age with family income at or below 133 percent of the FPL (as determined by the participating county), not pregnant, not eligible for Medi-Cal or CHIP, and whose county of last legal residence participates in a MCE program. Note: Eligibility determinations for this population will be completed by County LIHP designated staff.

Aid Code F7: Title XIX, MCE Existing eligibles. Individuals are not pregnant, between 19 and 64 years of age with family income at or below 133 percent of the FPL, not eligible for Medi-Cal or CHIP, and were enrolled in the Coverage Initiative under the Medi-Cal Hospital/Uninsured Care Waiver on November 1, 2010.

Aid Code F8: Title XIX, New MCE eligibles. Individuals are not pregnant, between 19 and 64 years of age with family income at or below 133 percent of the FPL (as determined by the participating county), not eligible for Medi-Cal or CHIP.

Aid Code F9: Title XIX, HCCI Existing eligibles. Individuals are not pregnant, between 19 and 64 years of age with family income above 133 through 200 percent of the FPL, uninsured, not eligible for Medi-Cal or CHIP, and who were enrolled in the HCCI under the Medi-Cal Hospital/Uninsured Care Waiver on November 1, 2010.

Aid Code F0: Title XIX, HCCI New eligibles. Individuals are not pregnant, between 19 and 64 years of age with family income above 133 through 200 percent of the FPL, uninsured, and not eligible for Medi-Cal or CHIP.

Aid Code 84: Title XIX, CMSP/LIHP, Path2Health. Individuals are not pregnant, between 19 and 64 years of age with family income at or below 100 percent of the FPL, not eligible for Medi-Cal or CHIP.

Information regarding LIHP implementation, the Bridge to Reform Waiver STCs, LIHP enrollment reports as well as the local LIHPs' specific program information is posted on the DHCS website under the Low Income Health Program tab. The direct link to the website is: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/lihp.aspx>.

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If you have any questions regarding this MEDIL, please contact Alice Mak at (916) 319-9565 or by email at alice.mak@dhcs.ca.gov or Frank Kwong at (916) 552-9487 or by email at frank.kwong@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original Signed By

Azadeh Fares, Chief (Acting)
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division