

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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October 15, 2001

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons
All County MEDS Coordinators
All County Health Executives
All County Mental Health Directors

Letter No.: 01-57

CHANGES TO THE CURRENT BRIDGING PROGRAM

Ref.: All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) No. 98-38, EMC No. 98102,
and EMC No. 98131

The purpose of this letter is to modify two provisions addressed in ACWDL No. 99-06 that provided counties with implementation instructions and related information for the Bridging program. The Bridging program provides one month of no-cost Medi-Cal to children who lose their full-scope, no-cost Medi-Cal and who are apparently eligible for the Healthy Families program (HF).

These changes relate to the current Bridging program. As you may know, California submitted a waiver request to expand the HF to include parents and certain other adults. As part of this waiver request, California proposed to expand the Bridging program for two months and include those adults who are also apparently eligible for HF. This waiver has not yet been approved and there are no implementing instructions for any future Bridging program in this letter.

Modification 1: ACWDL No. 99-06 informed counties that one of the requirements for eligibility for Bridging was that the child's family income not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). The HF now enrolls children with family income not exceeding the 250 percent of the FPL. Therefore, counties shall place otherwise eligible children in the Bridging program if their family income does not exceed 250 percent of the FPL.

Modification 2: ACWDL No. 99-06 told counties that the Department of Health Services (DHS) would be sending children in the Bridging program a HF application packet so they could apply for HF while they were still covered under the Bridging program. DHS is not sending out such packets. Counties, however, have such packets available. Counties may either send out these packets with the notice of action, or counties may inform these eligibles to please call the Single Point of Entry (toll-free) at 1-800-888-5305 to request a HF packet.

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If you have any questions regarding this letter or the implementation of the Bridging program, please contact Mr. Carl Miller, of my staff at (916) 657-0562.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Shar Schroepfer, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch