



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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

August 17, 2011

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 11-34
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS

SUBJECT: SECTION 1931(b) AND NEW CALWORKS TIME LIMITS AS A RESULT OF
SENATE BILL 72 (CHAPTER 8, STATUTES OF 2011)

The purpose of this letter is to inform Counties of the changes to the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program pursuant to Senate Bill (SB) 72 (Chapter 8, Statutes of 2011), signed by Governor Brown on March 24, 2011.

These CalWORKs changes were effective July 1, 2011. The California Department of Social Services distributed a statewide mailer to all CalWORKs recipients in May 2011 containing information regarding the SB 72 changes. Some of the SB 72 changes will impact families' CalWORKs assistance payment but they do not have any impact to the recipients' Medi-Cal benefits. The changes are:

- Time limit reduction for adults from 60 months to 48 months.
- Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) level reduction of eight percent for all cases, including Region 1 and 2, and exempt and non-exempt MAP levels.
- A new income disregard structure which retains the \$225 disregard for disability-based unearned income, but limits the earned income disregard to any remainder of the \$225 disregard or \$112, whichever is less.
- The Cal Learn program becomes inoperative from July 2011 through June 2012 with the exception of Cal Learn Supplements and bonuses.

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CalWORKs recipients will continue to get Medi-Cal because the Medi-Cal program income standards are higher than that of the CalWORKs program. The reductions in the cash assistance payments will not cause recipients to lose their eligibility under Section 1931(b) Medi-Cal only benefits. If any family member becomes ineligible for CalWORKs solely because of the time limit changes, the county shall transition these individuals to the Section 1931(b) Medi-Cal program and use the CalWORKs case information for the Medi-Cal case file until the next annual redetermination or a change in circumstance occurs which requires the county to complete an eligibility review for ongoing eligibility under other Medi-Cal programs.

If you have questions about this letter or the Section 1931(b) program, please contact Rose Pankratz at (916) 327-0422, or at rose.pankratz@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original signed by:

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Medi-Cal Eligibility Division