

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 455-1797



January 7, 1980

TO: All County Welfare Directors

Letter No. 80-1

## SPECIAL ENERGY ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS

This letter is to advise counties of the new Congressional authorization to exempt Special Energy Allowance Payments, received during the 1979/80 Winter months, for all Medi-Cal-only eligibility and share-of-cost determinations.

Public Law 96-126, emergency federal legislation passed on November 27, 1979, authorizes special energy allowance payments to certain low income families during the Winter months of 1979/80. The law further provides that the payments shall not be considered as income or resources under any public or publically assisted program, where eligibility depends on the amount of a beneficiary's income. We are in the process of filing regulations to correspond to this Congressional authorization. In the meantime, such payments shall be exempted based upon the Congressional authorization.

In California, these energy allowance payments may be in the form of direct payment to the eligible individuals or families or may be in the form of vendor payments to fuel suppliers on behalf of the eligible individuals or families. Additionally, the Special Energy Allowance funds will be administered through various governmental agencies, including the Social Security Administration and the Office of Economic Opportunity. Regardless of the manner of the payment or the agency administering the payment, receipt of Special Energy Allowance funds should not be considered as income or property when determining an individual's or family's Medi-Cal-only eligibility or share-of-cost.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, contact your Medi-Cal Field Representative.

Sincerely

Original signed by

Doris Z. Soderberg, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons  
Medi-Cal Field Representatives

Expiration Date: July 31, 1980