

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 322-6454



February 27, 1980

To: All County Welfare Directors

Letter No. 80-7

BENEFICIARY DATA EXCHANGE (BENDEX) REPORTS

Within the next week, the Department will release the January and February 1980 BENDEX report to county welfare departments. In addition to the new or changed Title II payment data for county administered beneficiaries, the monthly BENDEX report contains data for SSI/SSP recipients. Also, BENDEX records appear when there have been other changes which may not affect the Title II benefit amount.

Attachment I is a description of the data elements contained on the existing BENDEX report that are of importance to the county in determining Title II income amounts and other eligibility factors. Information on the other eligibility factors is in the form of codes appearing in various fields on the report. They are a notification that the Social Security Administration has learned of changes in an individual's situation that could affect his/her Title II benefits. Certain of these changes, such as a death in the family, the employment of a family member, recovery from disability, etc., could also affect Medi-Cal eligibility directly. Attachment I explains which type of possible or actual change is represented by each code. If counties were unaware of such alleged changes in a case prior to receipt of the BENDEX report, these changes should be researched to see if and when they actually occurred, and their impact on the case's Medi-Cal eligibility.

The Department is in the process of modifying the BENDEX report to simplify the coding remarks for easier interpretation and to contain only that information which reflects new or changed Title II payment and other pertinent eligibility data for county administered beneficiaries. A letter will be sent to all counties describing the new report, including record layouts when the modifications are completed. Until then, those fields appearing on the current report for which there are no explanations on the Attachment should be ignored.

At the request of several counties, the Department is exploring the feasibility of preparing a periodic BENDEX reconciliation report. A questionnaire

All County Welfare Directors

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will be sent to each county shortly for indication of the time basis for the reconciliation report and production mode (paper, microfiche or magnetic tape) preferred for both reconciliation and monthly BENDEX reports.

If you have any questions or suggestions for improving the BENDEX report, please contact Karla Gurley of my staff at (916) 445-1797.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Doris Z. Soderberg, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

Attachment

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Field Representatives

EXPLANATION OF DATA ELEMENTS
BENDEX REPORT

Listed below are explanations of the BENDEX data elements which will be of use to county welfare departments in determining the amount and status of Title II benefits for county administered Medi-Cal beneficiaries, or in determining other possible changes to the beneficiary or family which would affect Medi-Cal eligibility. Data elements appearing on the BENDEX report for which an explanation is not given should be ignored.

The report month indicated on BENDEX shows the status of the beneficiary in that month.

<u>Data Element</u>	<u>Codes Within Element</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
County		The appropriate county number and name.
District		This field contains the district, eligibility worker number, or whatever coding the county has input in the district field at the time of CID input.
Run Date		Date BENDEX report is prepared by the Department.
Beneficiary Identification		This field includes the county code, aid code, seven-digit serial number, family budget unit, and persons number.
Last Name		Self-explanatory.
First Name		Self-explanatory.
MI (Middle Initial)		A single letter identifying the first letter of the beneficiary's middle name/initial.
Sex		The sex of the beneficiary; "F" for female, "M" for male, and "U" for unknown.
Date of Birth		The numeric month, day, and year of birth of the beneficiary.

<u>Data Element</u>	<u>Codes Within Element</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
Payment Status Code		The payment status codes to which counties should pay special attention are indicated below. These codes inform the county of certain factors which may affect Medi-Cal eligibility.
	AW	Beneficiary's record has been withdrawn for adjustment because individual is receiving Workers Compensation; offset of Title II funds is being imposed. Except for very unusual circumstances, no Title II payments are released by the Social Security Administration while the beneficiary is in an adjustment status.
	B	Beneficiary has filed a claim for Title II benefits and died prior to establishing entitlement.
	CP	Beneficiary is currently receiving Title II benefits.
	D(X)	Title II benefits are being deferred for future payment. To determine the reason for deferral, the following codes will be given.
	D1	Beneficiary is engaging in work in a foreign country.
	D2	Title II payment deferred to recover an overpayment which resulted because of beneficiary's employment.
	D3	A family member's Title II benefits have been withheld as the result of the D2 status of a primary beneficiary.
	D4	Failure to have a child in care. Counties should pay special attention to this code as there may be loss of AFDC linkage.
	D5	Family member's Title II benefits withheld as the result of the D1 status of a primary beneficiary.
	P	Title II benefits deferred because beneficiary is receiving public assistance.

<u>Data Element</u>	<u>Codes Within Element</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
	W	Title II benefits deferred because beneficiary is receiving workers' compensation.
	S(X)	Title II benefits are currently in suspense. To determine the reason for suspense, the following codes will be given.
	S1	Beneficiary is engaging in work in a foreign country.
	S2	Beneficiary is working and expects earnings in excess of annual allowable Title II limits.
	S3	Family member's Title II benefits withheld because of S2 status of primary beneficiary.
	S4	Failure to have a child in care. This status may result in loss of AFDC linkage.
	S5	Family member's Title II benefits withheld as the result of S1 status of primary beneficiary.
	S6	Title II check returned. SSA is investigating to determine correct address.
	SH	(Age 72 Prouty Benefits) Beneficiary suspended as the result of receipt of a government pension.
	SK	Beneficiary has been deported.
	SL	Beneficiary resides in a country to which Title II checks cannot be sent.
	SP	(Age 72 Prouty Benefits) Beneficiary suspended because of receipt of public assistance.
	SW	Workers' compensation payments preclude Social Security payments.

<u>Data Element</u>	<u>Codes Within Element</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
	T(X)	Title II benefits have been terminated for the Claim Account Number (CAN) indicated. To determine the reason for termination, the following codes will be given.
	T1	Beneficiary is deceased.
	T2	Primary beneficiary is deceased. (Primary beneficiary is the individual whose earnings were considered in determining the beneficiary's Title II amount.)
	T3	Beneficiary divorced, married, or remarried.
	T8	Primary Title II beneficiary recovered from a disability, or the last disabled child recovered from a disability.
	TB	Beneficiary became entitled to widow(er)'s benefits based on disability.
	X(X)	Beneficiary was entitled to hospital or supplemental medical insurance benefits only (i.e., was not entitled to monthly Title II benefit payments) and was removed from that category. The reasons for removal are indicated below.
	X1	Death of beneficiary.
	XK	Beneficiary was deported.
Old Monthly Benefits Payable		The old monthly benefit amount will appear in this field if there is a new monthly benefit payable or some other change in the record has occurred.
New Monthly Benefits Payable		This is the amount of Title II benefits the beneficiary is currently receiving. When changes in the record other than benefit amount occur the same benefit amount will appear in both the Old and New Monthly Benefit amount.

<u>Data Element</u>	<u>Codes Within Element</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
Health Insurance Claim Number		This field represents the Title II CAN being used to collect Title II benefits.
Beneficiary Own Account Number		This field indicates the Social Security Number (SSN) of the person receiving the Title II benefits.
Q Communication Code (COMM CODE)		This field transmits data to counties to help them analyze records which were returned by SSA. The reasons indicated below can be used to assist counties in determining proper Medi-Cal eligibility.
	13	No DEX -- Accretion and deletion cases received as direct input for same CAN/SSN. SSA unable to determine which action the State is attempting. (Neither processed.)
	15	RRB only -- Entitled to RRB benefits; not entitled to Title II benefits.
	16	SI-BL-RR -- Entitled to SSI, Black Lung, and RRB benefits; not entitled to Title II benefits.
	17	SSA-INV -- SSA is investigating.
	18	SSI-BL -- Entitled to SSI and Black Lung benefits; not entitled to Title II benefits.
	20	SSI-RRB -- Entitled to SSI and RRB benefits; not entitled to Title II benefits.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

2147/154 P. NREB
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

(916) 322-6454

December 28, 1979



Mr. Jere McEvilly
Social Security Administration
Division of Operational Support
100 Van Ness Avenue, 26th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. McEvilly:

Due to recent organizational changes within the Department, we would like to request that, effective January 1, 1980, California's BENDEX tapes be sent directly to:

Department of Health Services
Data Guidance Unit
744 P Street, Room 960
Sacramento, CA 95814

Any questions regarding the State's BENDEX activities should be directed to:

Department of Health Services
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch
714 P Street, Room 1692
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: Karla Gurley

Mrs. Gurley will serve as the BENDEX liaison for the Department of Health Services and may be reached by telephone at (916) 445-1797.

If you have any questions, regarding these changes, please contact Karla at the above telephone number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doris Z. Soderberg".

Doris Z. Soderberg, Chief
Eligibility Branch

bcc: Medi-Cal Field Representatives

RELIEF FOR SENIOR HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS

80

(id as of 11/1/79 - Destroy previous versions.)

... provide property tax and rent assistance for the senior Californian. For
 OWNERS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION, HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE and PROPERTY TAX
 e program for renters: RENTER ASSISTANCE and RENTERS' CREDIT. Each program has its
 own eligibility requirements and filing period. If you own the place you live in, you may
 own eligible both the HOMEOWNERS' EXEMPTION and HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE. If you rent your
 be able to use the space on which you park your mobilehome, you may be eligible for RENTERS'
 residence RENTER ASSISTANCE.
 CREDIT

HOMEOWNERS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Qualifications You must own and occupy your home in California as a principal place of dwelling as of 12:01 A.M., March 1, 1980 (there are no age or income requirements). You can get both the HOMEOWNERS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION and the HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE during the same year. However, you cannot claim the VETERANS' and the HOMEOWNERS' TAX EXEMPTIONS on the same property.

Public assistance, including SSI, beneficiaries are not disqualified from applying.

How Much Is Exempt? Your tax bill will be reduced. You will not be charged property tax on \$1750 of the assessed value or \$7000 of the market value of your home. That is, providing that you filed before April 15. If you file between April 16 and December 1, 1980, then these figures change to \$1400 of the assessed value or \$5600 of your home's market value.

When and Where to File You must file with the Assessor's office in your county by April 15, 1980. Claim forms and help in preparing and filing are available from your County Assessor's Office. *Late filing:* You will receive 80% of the HOMEOWNERS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION on a claim filed with the County Assessor after April 15, but before December 1, 1980, providing you were eligible at 12:01 A.M. March 1, 1980.

CALIFORNIA HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCEQualifications

- You must have been 62 years of age or totally disabled or blind on December 31, 1979.
- You must have owned and occupied the place you live in as of December 31, 1979.
- You must have had a household income for calendar year 1979 of \$12,000 or less.

Who may qualify:

- even though you received SSI or other public assistance last year;
- even though you claim the VETERANS' or HOMEOWNERS' tax exemption;
- if you live in a mobilehome and own the land on which it sits.

One Claim per Household Only one HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE claim can be filed for each household. "Household" includes all individuals (except minors, renters, and dependents) who lived in the home as their principal place of residence all or part of calendar year 1979.

How Much Help Do You Get? You will receive a refund of a portion of the taxes you paid on the first \$8500 of the net assessed value (after homeowner's exemption) of your home. The size of the refund depends upon your household income.

When and Where to File To get HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE, claims must be filed May 16, 1980 through August 31, 1980 with offices of the State Franchise Tax Board. Claim forms and help in preparing and filing are available there. *Late filing:* When there is a reasonable cause, the Franchise Tax Board can allow an extension up to six months for filing after August 31, 1980. If you need that additional extension must be in before August 31, 1980.

Qualifications:

- You must have been 62 years of age or older or totally disabled or blind on December 31, 1979;
- You must have occupied a rented residence for all or part of 1979. The rented premises must not have been exempt from property taxation. Mobile homes on rented land qualify. Your household income for calendar year 1979 must not exceed \$12,000;
- Assistance is not allowable for any month in which rent paid was less than \$50.

If two or more individuals each pay rent for the same premises, each is entitled to

RENTERS' CREDIT

Qualifications:

- You must have been a resident and renting in California on March 1, 1979;
- Your dwelling must not have been exempt from property tax. (Most public housing or church-owned housing is exempt from property tax.);
- You must not have received the HOMEOWNERS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION in 1979;
- You must not have lived with another person who claimed you as a dependent for income tax purposes;
- You can receive RENTERS' CREDIT in addition to RENTER ASSISTANCE.

Every renter who meets the above qualifications should file a State Renter's Credit Form 540RC to qualify for RENTERS' CREDIT. You can receive this credit even though you receive food stamps, Medi-Cal, SSI, AFDC, General Assistance, Title XX Social Services, etc.

Filing for back years: one may file for RENTERS' CREDIT each qualifying tax year in the previous four years. However, in previous years not all persons who now are eligible as listed above were eligible. For example, if you qualified for the credit in 1976, you should file a return for that year by April 15, 1980. Until this year the credit was only \$37 per qualified renter.

How Much is the Refund? For renters who qualify: \$137 for a married couple filing a joint claim, and \$137 for a "Head of Household"; \$60.00 for a single person.

When and Where to File To get RENTERS' CREDIT for 1979 you must file a 1979 Renter's Credit Claim Form 540RC. If you have taxable income, Form 540RC should be filed with your state income tax return, Form 540, by April 15, 1980. However, you should file even if you do not report any taxable income for 1979. You can get the tax credit as a cash credit, even if your income was not taxable. State forms and help in preparing and filing are available from offices of the Franchise Tax Board. You can file as early as January 1, 1980. *Late filing:* You may file any time within four years; there is no penalty for late filing. It is best to file as soon as you can.

assistance if all the qualification requirements are met. Husband and wife residing in the same premises are considered as one renter.

Public assistance, including SSI, beneficiaries are not disqualified from applying.

How Much Help Do You Get? The size of the refund depends upon your household income.

When and Where to File To get RENTER ASSISTANCE, claims must be filed May 16, 1980 through August 31, 1980 with offices of the State Franchise Tax Board. Claim forms and help in preparing and filing are available there. *Late filing:* When there is reasonable cause, the Franchise Tax Board can allow an extension up to six months for a claim filed after August 31, 1980. If you need that additional time to file, your request for an extension must be in before August 31, 1980. However, there are special provisions for people who are incapable of putting in that request on time.

CALIFORNIA PROPERTY TAX POSTPONEMENT LAW

persons 62 years of age or older on December 31, 1980, living in their homes, with combined household incomes under \$23,100; to postpone all or part of the taxes on their homes. You must file between May 16 and December 31, 1980 for certificates to postpone your 1980-1981 property taxes. For claim forms and further information write the Franchise Tax Board, or call a toll-free number of the Franchise Tax Board, in State of California listings in the white pages of your telephone book.

This amount will be adjusted by the cost of living index on March 1, 1980.

HELP WITH PROBLEMS

Contact the Franchise Tax Board for any problems with HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE, RENTER ASSISTANCE, RENTERS' CREDIT. To find the Franchise Tax Board, look in your phone book under "California, State of".

For any problems with HOMEOWNERS' PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION, contact your County Assessor. You can find the Assessor by looking at the listing under your County Offices.

If those agencies cannot help you, contact your nearest Legal Services office, or senior advocates in the various aging agencies.

Additional copies of this fact sheet, and fact sheets on SSI, Overpayment, Medi-Cal/Medicare, English and Spanish, are available from the Department of Aging, 918 "J" Street, Sacramento 95814. They were prepared by the SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM - CALIFORNIA RURAL ADULT ASSISTANCE.