

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide**

Blindness/Disability

Number

99-101.5

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A. Background:

Individuals who are blind and/or disabled may be eligible for CAPI based on that condition.

B. Policy:

1. Blindness:

To qualify as blind, a person must be found “statutorily blind” or meet presumptive disability standards. Statutory blindness is a visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with the use of a corrective lens. Presumptive disability for blindness is the allegation of total blindness. A current determination of blindness established for Title II Social Security, SSI/SSP, or Medi-Cal can be used to establish blindness for CAPI. A “current” determination is one that has not lapsed due to benefit termination.

2. Substantial Gainful Activity and Blindness:

Work or the ability to perform substantial gainful activity (SGA) is not a factor in determining blindness. SGA means work activity that involves doing significant physical or mental activities and that is usually done for pay or profit, whether or not a profit is realized.

3. Disability:

Disability or blindness is verified through medical documentation. SP-DDSD will make a determination of disability based on documentation provided. The State may purchase consultative examinations when it is determined necessary. The disability evaluation for CAPI is the same as for Medi-Cal disability determinations; however, CAPI cases will need to be flagged before forwarding to the State. Identify a CAPI case in Item 8 of form MC 221 by writing “CAPI Case” next to the box that is checked to indicate Initial Referral. No aid may be granted until the disability evaluation is completed, except in case of presumptive disability.

4. Disability Evaluation:

See Processing Guide 99-101.5A for the process for the disability evaluation.

5. Presumptive Disability:

Determine presumptive disability, based on the conditions listed in Desk Aid 99-101.5A. The disability must meet one of the conditions for the individual to be presumptively eligible. The determination may be based on limited or no medical evidence, but make a reasonable determination that the condition exists. A presumptive disability determination must be documented in case record.

6. Length of Eligibility Under Presumptive Disability:

If an individual meets all other eligibility criteria, he/she may receive CAPI benefits based on presumptive disability for up to six months. Payments during the six months are not considered overpayments if the applicant is ultimately determined not to be blind or disabled. If the disability evaluation process is not completed by the end of six months, aid must be discontinued, but the case will not close.

7. Medical Redetermination:

There may be a Continuing Disability Review (CDR) required with certain disability determinations. The review period may be between six months to seven years. A CDR may also be initiated as a result of earned income being posted to the recipient’s record.

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SP-DDSD completes the CDR. Working, in and of itself, will not cause discontinuance of aid, even if the work is at the SGA level. Generally, there must be evidence of medical improvement for the disability evaluation to determine a disability has ceased. If the CDR determines a disability has ceased, eligibility for CAPI will be discontinued unless the recipient now qualifies for CAPI as aged and is otherwise eligible to CAPI.

C. Procedure:

See Processing Guide 99-101.5A for procedures for the disability evaluation.

Other Program Impacts:

None.

References:

MPP 49-025.2-4

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 03/31/2019

Release Date:

3/23/2016