

July 21, 2003

**CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS PROGRAM GUIDE LETTER NO. 4**

**SUBJECT: STATE SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT (SSP) COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT**

Effective Date: June 1, 2003

References: WIC 18941; AB 2779; ACIN I -92-02; ACIN I-31-03; AB 692

**1. Purpose**

This Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter is to notify staff of revised payment standards for CAPI to include the State Supplementary Payment (SSP) Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

**2. Background**

In August of 1998, Assembly Bill (AB) 2779 established the CAPI program, which is founded on Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) eligibility criteria. Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18941 requires that the CAPI payment standard is based on the SSI/SSP payment standards, minus \$10.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a couple.

All County Information Notice (ACIN) No. I-92-02 notified counties of the new CAPI payment standards for 2003, resulting from a 1.40% federal SSI Cost Of Living Adjustment, effective January 1, 2003. At that time the SSP amount was not changed.

All County Information Notice (ACIN) No. I-31-03 notified counties of the SSP COLA and of the requirement to issue retroactive payments, as necessary, to reimburse CAPI recipients the proper amount back to June 1, 2003.

Assembly Bill (AB) 692 had delayed the State SSP COLA from January 1, 2003 to June 1, 2003, in anticipation that the statutory provisions, which require the SSP COLA, would be repealed. However, these provisions were *not* repealed and the State has notified Social Security Administration (SSA) to implement the June 2003 SSP COLA. SSA will send SSI/SSP recipients their retroactive payments by October 1, 2003.

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### 3. Increased CAPI Payment Standards and Unchanged Other Values

The increased payment standards are included in Appendix G-6 of the CAPI Program Guide. The following chart lists the three values that can impact CAPI eligibility and benefit amounts. These values were included in CAPI Program Guide Letter No. 3 and remain the same. They are repeated here for your convenience.

<b>Variable Value</b>	<b>Current Amount, As of 1/1/03</b>	<b>Enter Amount, When Appropriate, on Form . . .</b>
• Presumed Maximum Value (PMV) of the In-Kind Support and Maintenance	Individual: \$196.66 Couple: \$285.33	SOC 452, Income Eligibility Worksheet, line A.1.b.
• Allowance for Ineligible Children in Deeming Situations (i.e., deeming income from an ineligible spouse)	\$266.00	SOC 452, Income Eligibility Worksheet, line B.2.a.
• Sponsor's Allocation in Alien Deeming Situations	\$530.00	SOC 454, Sponsor to Alien Deeming Worksheet, line 2.

Upon receipt of an advance copy of ACIN I-31-03 from the State, notification of the increased payment standards and unchanged other values was provided to the Mission Valley Family Resource Center on June 20, 2003.

### 4. Worker Actions

Workers must take the following actions to implement the SSP COLA for on-going payments in August and retroactive supplements for June and July:

- Recalculate budgets for June and July to accommodate retroactive supplements;
- Make a G-line entry in the Case Date System (CDS) to issue the retroactive supplements (see Automation Impact below);
- Calculate budgets for August and on-going payments, based on increased amount; and
- Complete and send to recipients a Notice of Change (NA 692).

### 5. Automation Impact

Attachment A provides examples of how to issue retroactive supplements via the Case Data System (CDS) BDLM GLIN screen. The FRATS CAPI Grant Savings Amounts have been updated to reflect the new CAPI Payment Standards.

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**6. Forms Impact**

None.

**7. Appeals/Quality Control Impact (QC)**

At this time, the California Department of Social Services has not specified a QC requirement for CAPI. Appeals will be handled through the usual state hearing process.

**8. Food Stamp Impact**

CAPI payments must be treated in accordance with Food Stamp Program Guide 63-256.2. State funded supplemental payments are counted as a resource and are not budgeted as income. All assistance payments must be prospectively budgeted. Workers should make the necessary prospective budgeting changes to the future month, subject to NOA requirements. Households that do not meet the income limits in a future month must be discontinued as soon as timely notice can be given.

**9. Medi-Cal Impact**

Since CAPI payments are considered public assistance income and are exempt for Medi-Cal budgeting purposes, do not count CAPI when determining Medi-Cal eligibility and/or share of cost.

**10. Filing Instructions**

<b>Remove :</b>	<b>Replace with attached:</b>
Appendix G-5	Appendices G-5 and G-6

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

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Policy and Program Support Division

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