

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 9

December 21, 2007

Subject **JANUARY 2008 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLA)**

Effective date January 1, 2008

Reference All-County Information Notices (ACIN) I-72-07 and I-75-07

Purpose The purpose of this CAPI Program Guide Letter is to provide staff:

- Revised payment standards for CAPI effective January 1, 2008 and June 1, 2008
- Reminder for treatment of COLAs for CAPI/SSI couple cases.

Background on CAPI payment standards The documents listed in the chart below determine the CAPI payment standards.

Document	Purpose
Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18941	Requires CAPI payment standards based on the SSI/SSP payment standards, minus \$10.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a couple.
All-County Information Notice No. I-75-07	Notified counties of the following, per Senate Bill 68: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New CAPI Payment Standards for 2008, resulting from the Federal SSI/SSP COLA, effective January 1, 2008 and June 1, 2008. • Treatment of COLAs for CAPI/SSI couple cases.

Continued on next page

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 9, Continued

Increases in other values The Federal SSI COLA affects three values that can impact CAPI eligibility and benefit amounts. The chart below lists these three values.

Variable Value	Amount for 2007	Amount as of 1/1/08	Enter Amount, When Appropriate, on Form . . .
Presumed Maximum Value (PMV) of the In-Kind Support and Maintenance	Individual: \$227.66 Couple: \$331.33	Individual: \$232.33 Couple: \$338.66	SOC 452, Income Eligibility Worksheet, line A.1.b.
Allowance for Ineligible Children in Deeming Situations (i.e., deeming income from an ineligible spouse)	\$311.00	\$319.00	SOC 452, Income Eligibility Worksheet, line B.2.a.
Sponsor's Allocation in Alien Deeming Situations	\$623.00	\$637.00	SOC 454, Sponsor to Alien Deeming Worksheet, line 2.
Allowance for Parent(s) in Parent-to-Child Deeming Situations	One parent: \$623 Two parents: \$934	One parent: \$637 Two parents: \$956	SOC 452A, Income Eligibility – Child Worksheet.

SSI couple cases ACIN I-81-04 instructs counties to change the way they prepare budgets for CAPI/SSI/SSP couples in the month that a COLA occurs and the subsequent month. Currently, per All-County Letter (ACL) No. 99-13, workers count the SSI/SSP benefits received by one spouse as income, while using a special Payment Standard for CAPI/SSI/SSP couples.

Continued on next page

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 9, Continued

SSI couple cases
(continued)

This is to ensure that these couples receive combined benefits that total \$10.00 less than the benefit rate for SSI/SSP couples, as opposed to \$20.00 less for CAPI couples. However, this intended result will NOT occur for a CAPI/SSI/SSP couple if workers use normal retrospective budgeting of the spouse's SSI/SSP benefit to determine the CAPI payment in the effective month of a COLA and the subsequent month. Using the current retrospective budgeting for these two months results in the CAPI/SSI/SSP couples receiving *higher* combined benefits in the two months in question than either the SSI/SSP or the CAPI couple.

Therefore, workers must use prospective budgeting for the month that a COLA occurs and the subsequent month. Due to functionality, CalWIN will not use prospective budgeting. In order for the income to be counted correctly, workers must enter the begin date of November 2007 for the increased income. Otherwise, it will not be counted correctly for January 2008.

Example of budgeting methods

Using January 2008 the following example illustrates the difference between the current retrospective budgeting for the COLA and subsequent months (i.e., January and February of 2008) and the new prospective budgeting for this same period. This example assumes the SSI spouse receives the full SSI benefit and there are no other income adjustments for an aged or disabled couple.

CAPI/SSI Couple's Payment Standard	SSI Spouse's Benefit for Appropriate Months	CAPI Spouse's Benefit
<u>Retrospective</u>		
\$1,514 -	\$856	= \$658
<u>Prospective</u>		
\$1,514 -	\$870	= \$644

Note: This example is for the months of January and February. However, prospective budgeting will be used for all future COLA and subsequent months.

Continued on next page

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 9, Continued

Reports The COLA ran on December 2, 2007 for all CalWORKs, Food Stamps (FS), Medi-Cal, GR, and CAPI cases with SSA/Veterans' Benefits.

Workers must review the reports attached to the electronic version of this letter. The table below shows the reports, the information included in the report, and any action that must be taken.

Report	Description	Action
Cases Processed	Lists all cases, by program, where EDBC was run and authorized in the COLA run.	None needed.
Error Worker Detail	Lists description of error encountered and the corresponding case numbers, case name, case status, programs and worker detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for error • Make corrections, if any • Re-run EDBC
Correspondence Details	Lists all the correspondences by case, which was triggered during the current COLA run. NOTE: This count does not directly relate to the summary report because it is a case level report and if more than one person on the case gets the same notice it will only be counted once.	None needed. These notices were issued automatically.
CAPI Benefit Amount	Contains the CAPI benefit amount information including the current benefit amount (after COLA), the previous benefit amount (before COLA), and the benefit difference amount (change in benefit amount), if any.	None needed.
SPL Indicator Updated	Lists all cases by program that had a batch indicator set by the user. The batch indicator was updated to allow batch mass update to authorize the case. The batch indicator reverted to the original value after the COLA run.	None needed.

Continued on next page

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 9, Continued

Reports (continued)

Report	Description	Action
Cases Excluded for EDBC Run	<p>Based on the last authorized record, if any individual in the case is receiving other than the following aid codes with the MEDS Priority Indicator as "Y" and PASS, those cases will be picked up for Batch EDBC.</p> <p>Excluded cases contain members with any of the following aid codes.</p> <p>1. Cash Linked Aid Codes</p> <p>01, 03, 04, 08, 0A, 30, 32, 33, 35, 3A, 3C, 3D, 3E, 3G, 3H, 3L, 3M, 3P, 3R, 3U, 3W, 3Y, 40, 42, 45, 4A, 4C, 4F, 4G, 4K, 50, 5K, 84, 85, 88, 89, 8F</p> <p>2. Other Medical Aid Codes [100%, 133%, 1931, 200%, 250WD, QMB, SLMB, QI1, QDWI, Bridging, CEC, FFC]</p> <p>3N, 3V, 44, 47, 48, 4M, 69, 6G, 72, 74, 7A, 7C, 7J, 7K, 7X, 80, 8A, 8C, 8D, 8N, 8P, 8R, 8T</p> <p>3. Pending Case Status</p>	Review case to see if EDBC needs to be run to pick up the COLA.
Excluded Open Cases with Active CAPI Program	CAPI cases bypassed in COLA run.	None needed. EDBC was run in the Friday night batch on 12/7/07.

Continued on next page

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 9, Continued

**Required
worker
actions**

Workers must take the following actions:

- Use prospective budgeting for recalculating budgets for the January 1, 2008 COLA.
 - Review the cases on the attached lists as stated above.
-

**June 1, 2008
COLA**

A reminder will be sent regarding the June 1, 2008 COLA to provide appropriate lists and any necessary actions.

Forms impact

None.

**Quality
Assurance
impact**

The California Department of Social Services has not specified a Quality Assurance requirement for CAPI and appeals are handled through the usual State hearing process.

**Food Stamps
impacts**

CAPI Grant adjustments due to COLA and CAPI Payment Standard changes will be treated for FS according to Quarterly Reporting/Prospective Budget (QR/PB) regulations.

CAPI payments are considered Public Assistance (PA) income. The actual monthly CAPI grant amount must be used each month to compute FS benefits for FS households receiving CAPI benefits.

Changes to PA benefits are considered information that is known to the county. The worker shall review all changes to PA benefits for possible FS benefit increases or decreases by calculating a new FS budget. FS benefits shall be increased if the calculation indicates such an increase. For QR reporting households, if the calculation indicates a mid-quarter decrease, benefits cannot be decreased.

**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.

Continued on next page

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 9, Continued

**Filing
instructions**

The table below shows how to file the CAPI PG material.

Action	Pages
Remove	99-103, Pages 5-11
Replace	99-103, Pages 5-11
Add	Appendices G-11 and G-12

**Manager
approval**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Dann Crawford, Assistant Deputy Director
Medi-Cal, General Relief, and CAPI Program Administration
Strategic Planning & Operational Support Division
