

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 20

June 2, 2009

Subject **JULY 2009 CAPI GRANT DECREASE**

Effective date July 1, 2009

Reference All-County Information Notice (ACIN) I-26-09

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

- Revised payment standards for CAPI effective July 1, 2009
- Reminder for treatment of COLAs for CAPI/Supplemental Security Income (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.
ACIN I-26-09	Notified counties of the following, per Senate Bill 68: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New CAPI Payment Standards for 2009, resulting from the Federal SSI/State Supplemental Payments (SSP) COLA, effective July 1, 2009.• Treatment of COLAs for CAPI/SSI couple cases.

Notice of Action Since this grant change is a reduction, a timely notice is required. The State has provided the language to CalWIN in time for them to revise the Notice of Action (NOA) for this COLA. The NA 692, Change in CAPI Grant Notice, will be automatically mailed to the affected recipients.

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. 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. CalWIN will correctly use prospective budgeting for the SSI spouse's SSI income as long as it is entered as SSI income.

A list of CAPI cases in which the spouse was identified as SSI was attached to the e-mailed version of CAPI PG Letter 19 dated April 6, 2009. Workers must again review the cases on this list to ensure that the correct SSI income is counted in the CAPI case. Please note: Some of the spouses identified on this report may have been denied SSI. No action is needed in this situation.

Example of budgeting methods

See CAPI PG Letter 19 for an example of the difference between retrospective budgeting for the COLA and subsequent months and prospective budgeting for this same period.

Reports

The COLA is scheduled to run on the weekend of June 6, 2009 for all CAPI cases.

Reports from the COLA run will be distributed separately and instructions will be attached to those reports.

Required worker actions

Workers must take the following actions:

- Use prospective budgeting for recalculating budgets for the July 1, 2009 COLA.
- Review the cases on the attached lists as stated above.

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 impact CAPI Grant adjustments due to COLA and CAPI Payment Standard changes will be treated for Food Stamps (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 Quarterly Reporting (QR) reporting households, if the calculation indicates a mid-quarter decrease, benefits cannot be decreased until the next quarter.

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.

Automation impact Automation impacts for NOAs, CAPI/SSI Couple Budgeting, and COLA reports are identified in the appropriate sections, above.

Manager approval ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Jaye Yoshonis, Assistant Deputy Director
Self-Sufficiency Programs
Strategic Planning & Operational Support Division

DH