

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 29

December 9, 2011

Subject **JANUARY 2012 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLA)**

Effective Date January 1, 2012

Reference All-County Information Notices (ACIN) I-76-11 and I-81-04
All County Letter (ACL) 99-13

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

- Revised payment standards for CAPI effective January 1, 2012; and
- 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-76-11	Notified counties of the following, per Senate Bill 68: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New CAPI Payment Standards for 2012, resulting from the Federal SSI/(State Supplemental Payments (SSP) COLA, effective January 1, 2012. • Treatment of COLAs for CAPI/SSI couple cases.

Increases in Other Values The Federal SSI COLA affects the following values for 2012 that can affect CAPI eligibility and benefit amounts.

Variable Value	Previous Amount	Amount as of 1/1/12	Enter Amount, When Appropriate, on Form...
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Presumed Maximum Value (PMV) of the In-Kind Support and Maintenance	Individual: \$244.66 Couple: \$357.00	Individual: \$252.66 Couple: \$369.33	SOC 452, Income Eligibility Worksheet, line A.1.b.
Allowance for Ineligible Children in Deeming Situations (i.e., deeming income from an ineligible spouse)	\$337.00	\$350.00	SOC 452, Income Eligibility Worksheet, line B.2.a. or SOC 452A, Income Eligibility – Child Worksheet, line A.4.a
Sponsor’s Allocation in Alien Deeming Situations	\$674.00	\$698.00	SOC 454, Sponsor to Alien Deeming Worksheet, line 2.
Allowance for Parent(s) in Parent-to-Child Deeming Situations	One parent: \$674.00 Two parents: \$1011.00	One parent: \$698.00 Two parents: \$1048.00	SOC 452A, Income Eligibility – Child Worksheet

SSI Couple Cases

[CAPI PG Letter No. 5](#) introduced workers to the change in the way they prepare budgets for CAPI/SSI/SSP couples in the month that a COLA occurs and the subsequent month. Currently, per [CAPI PG 99-103.4.B and C](#) and [CAPI PG 99-105.1.B](#), 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 not use prospective budgeting. In order for the income to be counted correctly, workers must enter the begin date of November 2011 for the increased income. Otherwise, it will not be counted correctly for January 2012.

Example of Budgeting

Using January 2012 the following example illustrates the difference between the current retrospective budgeting for the COLA and

Methods subsequent months (i.e., January and February of 2012) 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>		
\$1,434.20	- \$830.40	= \$603.80
<u>Prospective</u>		
\$1,434.20	- \$854.40	= \$579.80

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

Reports The COLA ran on the weekend of December 3, 2012 for all CAPI cases.

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

Required Worker Actions Workers must take the following actions:

- Use prospective budgeting for recalculating budgets for the January 1, 2012 COLA.
- Review the cases on the attached lists as stated above.

Automation Impact Impact as stated in this letter for couple budgeting.

Forms impact None.

ACCESS Impact ACCESS agents must be aware of the CAPI COLA in case of questions about CAPI grant changes are received.

Imaging Impact No impact.

**CalFresh
Impacts**

CAPI Grant adjustments due to COLA and CAPI Payment Standard changes will be treated for CalFresh 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 CalFresh benefits for CalFresh 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 CalFresh benefit increases or decreases by calculating a new CalFresh budget. CalFresh 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.

**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.

**Summary of
Changes**

The table below shows the changes made in the CAPI PG.

Section	Summary of Change
99-103 Appendix B	Added 2012 CAPI Payment Standards Chart.

**Manager
approval**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

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