

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 32

December 17, 2013

Subject **JANUARY 2014 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLA)**

Effective Date January 1, 2014

Reference All-County Information Notices (ACIN) I-72-13 and I-81-04

Purpose To provide staff:

- Revised payment standards for CAPI effective January 1, 2014; and
- Reminder for treatment of COLAs for CAPI/Supplemental Security Income (SSI) couple cases.

Background 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-72-13	Notified counties of the following, per Senate Bill 68: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New CAPI Payment Standards for 2014, resulting from the Federal SSI/State Supplemental Payments (SSP) COLA, effective January 1, 2014.• Treatment of COLAs for CAPI/SSI couple cases.

Continued on next page

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 32, Continued

Increases in Other Values The Federal SSI COLA affects the following values for 2014 that can affect CAPI eligibility and benefit amounts.

Variable Value	Previous Amount	Amount as of 1/1/14	Enter Amount, When Appropriate, on Form...
Presumed Maximum Value (PMV) of the In-Kind Support and Maintenance	Individual: \$256.66 Couple: \$375.33	Individual: \$260.33 Couple: \$380.67	SOC 452, Income Eligibility Worksheet, line A.1.b.
Allowance for Ineligible Children in Deeming Situations (i.e., deeming income from an ineligible spouse)	\$356.00	\$361.00	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	\$710.00	\$721.00	SOC 454, Sponsor to Alien Deeming Worksheet, line 2.
Allowance for Parent(s) in Parent-to-Child Deeming Situations	One parent: \$710.00 Two parents: \$1066.00	One parent: \$721.00 Two parents: \$1082.00	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 in which 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 a 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.

Continued on next page

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 32, Continued

SSI Couple Cases
(continued)

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 2013 for the increased income. Otherwise, it will not be counted correctly for January 2014.

Example of Budgeting Methods

Using the 2013 amounts as an example, the following illustrates the difference between the current retrospective budgeting for the COLA and subsequent months (i.e., January and February of 2014) 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>				
\$1,468.20	-	\$856.40	=	\$611.80
<u>Prospective</u>				
\$1,468.20	-	\$867.40	=	\$600.80

Note: This example is for the months of January and February 2014. However, prospective budgeting will be used for all future COLA and subsequent months.

Reports

The COLA ran on the weekend of December 7, 2013 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, 2014 COLA.
 - Review the cases on the attached lists as stated above.
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Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) Program Guide Letter No. 32, Continued

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

Forms impact No impact.

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

Scanning Impact No impact.

CalFresh Impacts CAPI Grant adjustments due to COLA and CAPI Payment Standard changes will be treated for CalFresh according to Semi-Annual Reporting/Prospective Budget (SAR/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.

Changes to PA benefits are considered Known-to-County information. The worker will budget the new or updated CAPI grant amount and review for possible CalFresh benefit increases or decreases. CalFresh benefits will be increased if the calculation indicates such an increase. CalFresh benefits will be decreased the first of the month for which timely notice can be provided.

Refer to [CalFresh Program Guide Letter # 586 \(page 12 of 17\)](#).

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. 32, Continued

Quality Assurance impact

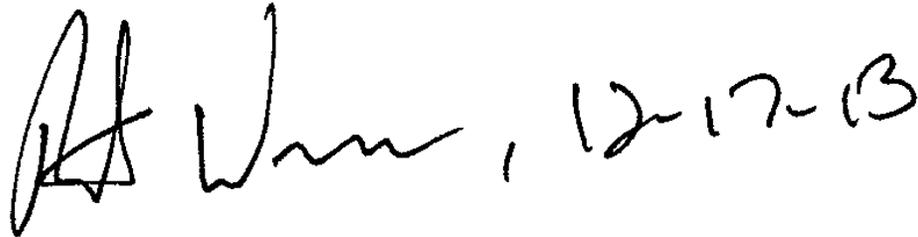
The California Department of Social Services has not specified a Quality Assurance requirement for CAPI and appeals are handled through the usual State hearing process.

Summary of Changes

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

Section	Summary of Change
99-103 Appendix B	Added 2014 CAPI Payment Standards Chart.

Manager approval



A. W., 12-17-13

DH

99-103 Appendix B. CAPI Payment Levels, Continued

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014
 BASED ON JANUARY 2014 SSI/SSP STANDARDS

	INDEPENDENT LIVING			REDUCED NEEDS			NON-MEDICAL OUT-OF-HOME CARE (NMOHC)					
	RESIDING IN OWN HOUSEHOLD			HOUSEHOLD OF ANOTHER WITH IN-KIND ROOM & BOARD			HOUSEHOLD OF RELATIVE WITH IN-KIND ROOM & BOARD AND CERTIFIED NMOHC			IN LICENSED FACILITY OR HOUSEHOLD OF RELATIVE WITHOUT IN-KIND ROOM & BOARD		
	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP	TOTAL CAPI		TOTAL SSI/SSP
INDIVIDUAL:												
AGED OR DISABLED - without cooking facilities (RMA)*	867.40 951.40		877.40 961.40	630.50 N/A		640.50 N/A	877.67 N/A		887.67 N/A	1,123.00 N/A		1,133.00 N/A
BLIND	922.40		932.40	685.50		695.50	877.67		887.67	1,123.00		1,133.00
DISABLED MINOR - living with parent(s) - living with non-parent relative or non-relative guardian	774.40		784.40	537.50		547.50	NA 877.67		NA 887.67	NA 1,123.00		NA 1,133.00
COUPLE:	BOTH CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	BOTH SSI/SSP	BOTH CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	BOTH SSI/SSP	BOTH CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	BOTH SSI/SSP	BOTH CAPI	ONE CAPI, ONE SSI	BOTH SSI/SSP
AGED OR DISABLED - per couple - without cooking facilities (RMA)*	1,458.20 1,626.20	1,468.20 1,636.20	1,478.20 1,646.20	1,102.67 N/A	1,112.67 N/A	1,122.67 N/A	1,747.00 N/A	1,757.00 N/A	1,767.00 N/A	2,246.00 N/A	2,256.00 N/A	2,266.00 N/A
BLIND - per couple	1,605.20	1,615.20	1,625.20	1,249.67	1,259.67	1,269.67	1,747.00	1,757.00	1,767.00	2,246.00	2,256.00	2,266.00
BLIND/AGED OR DISABLED - per couple	1,549.20	1,559.20	1,569.20	1,193.67	1,203.67	1,213.67	1,747.00	1,757.00	1,767.00	2,246.00	2,256.00	2,266.00

Presumed Maximum Value (PMV)

Individual:
Couple:

260.33
380.67

TITLE XIX MEDICAL FACILITY

	Individual	Couple
Total CAPI	\$40	\$80
SSI/SSP	50	100

* RMA – Restaurant Meals Allowance - \$84 Individual; \$168 Couple

Sponsor Allocation:	721.00	Allowance for Ineligible Children	361.00	Allowance for Parent(s)	
				One Parent:	721.00
				Two Parents:	1082.00