

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES

P.O. Box 419064, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9064

Reason for this Transmittal

- State Law or Regulation Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Change
- Clarification requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by DCSS

June 3, 2005

CSS LETTER: 05-18

ALL IV-D DIRECTORS
 ALL COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
 ALL BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: COMPROMISE OF ARREARS PROGRAM TO BE RELEASED ON
 JULY 1, 2005

The Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) Compromise of Arrears Program (COAP) will be released on July 1, 2005. All local child support agencies (LCSAs) are strongly encouraged to attend a COAP Technical Assistance session to familiarize staff with COAP and the automated system. LCSAs are expected to begin accepting compromises under the COAP as of July 1, 2005. The pilot LCSAs will go live on June 1, 2005.

COAP Technical Assistance

DCSS will be providing COAP Technical Assistance to the LCSAs through a series of sessions. A total of seven COAP Technical Assistance sessions will be held during the month of June 2005. COAP Desk Reference binders will be distributed to all participants. DCSS would like to thank the host LCSAs, Regional Training Coordinators, and the Child Support Directors Association (CSDA) for their assistance with coordinating the Technical Assistance sessions.

For more information about the COAP Technical Assistance sessions and locations, please visit the CSDA website at <http://www.csdaca.org/Public/train.html>. LCSA staff may register for a session on the CSDA website.

LCSA staff who are unable to attend the Technical Assistance session in their region will have the option to attend via videoconference, or travel to another region's session if space is available. Materials will be made available in advance of the session to those sites who are attending via videoconference. For more information regarding videoconferencing options, please contact Aleecia Macias, of the DCSS COAP Section, at (916) 464-5825.

CDs containing the Technical Assistance presentation and Desk Reference materials will be sent to the LCSAs in July 2005. The materials will also be available on the LCSA secure website for download.

COAP Automated System Access Information

DCSS COAP Section will contact LCSA directors via e-mail prior to July 1, 2005, for information about LCSA staff that is requesting access to the COAP automated system. The information requested will include the name and contact information, as well as the security levels, of each individual that will have access to the COAP automated system. The security levels will determine the individual's role in the COAP approval process.

Interim Compromise of Arrears Program (I-COAP)

I-COAP will continue to function after the release of COAP. However, I-COAP will be limited to cases that meet the following criteria:

1. Multiple cases in the same LCSA;
2. Interstate cases;
3. Cases with Temporarily Assigned Arrearages.

DCSS is currently unable to process these cases through the COAP automated system. It is the intent of DCSS to incorporate all cases into COAP once the technical issues are resolved. Until then, I-COAP will remain in place to assist noncustodial parents who are currently excluded from COAP and still wish to make an offer in compromise.

Any cases other than those types listed above should be entered in the COAP automated system. LCSAs submitting cases under I-COAP, which should be processed in COAP, will be notified by DCSS and asked to enter these cases in the COAP automated system.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact Laura Choate, COAP Section Manager, at (916) 464-5881 or by email at laura.choate@dcss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

o/s/Annette Siler

SANDRA O. POOLE
Deputy Director
Child Support Services Division