

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES**

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



December 22, 2000

LCSA LETTER NO. 00-09

TO: ALL IV-D DIRECTORS  
ALL LOCAL CHILD SUPPORT ADMINISTRATORS

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

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY'S  
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR LOCAL PROGRAMS ABOUT MEDI-CAL  
AND HEALTHY FAMILIES ENROLLMENT EFFORTS

You may know that there are over two million children in California who are not covered by health insurance. Many of these children qualify for no-cost or low-cost health coverage through the State's Medi-Cal program, which serves children from birth up to age 21, or through the Healthy Families program, which serves children up to age 19. However, California faces a serious challenge to find these uninsured children and get them enrolled in Medi-Cal or Healthy Families.

One strategy that has great potential for enrolling large numbers of these children is to focus outreach and enrollment efforts through other Federal and State programs that serve children, youth and families. We know that many uninsured children are participating in other programs. We can try to streamline the enrollment of these children into Medi-Cal and Healthy Families, especially when the income guidelines of the other programs are similar to those of the two health programs.

Currently, the California Health and Human Services Agency is leading an interagency effort to identify a range of options for how the State could streamline the application and enrollment process into Medi-Cal and Healthy Families for children applying to, or participating in, other Federal and State programs. The Department of Child Support Services is participating in this effort to discuss ways in which the child support program might be able to promote enrollment among children served in our program. This effort will lead to a report to the Legislature in February 2001 that identifies different options and examines the feasibility and technical issues relating to their implementation at the local level.

We recognize that successful implementation of any of the options identified in the report will depend upon the ability and commitment of local programs to implement these new ideas. That is why we are now asking for your input. As a first step, we developed the attached questionnaire to obtain information about any current efforts by your program to

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help children and families enroll in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. We also seek your ideas about ways your program might help streamline enrollment of children served by your program. It is important that we understand the real opportunities and challenges that your program would face in order to accurately describe the options.

**Please complete the questionnaire and return it no later than January 12, 2001 to Jody McCoy at the California Health and Human Services Agency, 1600 Ninth Street, Room 460, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 654-3454 (phone), (916) 654-3343 (fax), [jmccoy@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:jmccoy@chhs.ca.gov) (email).** Please feel free to call Jody at the number above, or call Linda Patterson at (916) 464-5035 if you have any questions.

We appreciate your time and effort in answering these questions. We are hopeful that the Agency will produce a report that presents many promising options. We will keep you informed of any implications of the report for the child support program.

Sincerely,

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LEORA GERSHENZON  
Assistant Director  
Office of Research and Program Design  
California Department of Child Support Services

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JODY McCOY  
Research Program Specialist  
California Health and Human Services Agency

Enclosure