

**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

August 7, 2001

LCSA LETTER: 01-23

TO: ALL IV-D DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: CREDIT REPORT SERVICES

This is to inform you about our efforts to restore the Statewide credit reporting service contract that recently expired. As you know, the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) has maintained a contract with a consumer credit information service for the last several years. This DCSS contract provided county child support enforcement agencies with the ability to access credit information as a locate tool. Unfortunately, the contract expired on June 30, 2001. While we attempted to renew the contract prior to and even beyond its expiration, we could not complete the process because we were unable to gain agreement on key extension provisions with the previous provider.

DCSS projects that the competitive bidding process currently in progress will result in a new long-term contract for this service by the end of October, 2001. We understand this service is critical to county operations and not having a statewide contract in place leaves a significant number of counties without the essential locate tool that credit information services provide. To address this lapse in service, DCSS is engaged in efforts to procure a short-term contracting source which should be available by the beginning of September. In the mean time, DCSS suggests counties pursue use of one of the following options:

**Option #1**

Counties that have delegated authority for contracts may enter into a short term (up to 90 days) contract directly with a consumer credit information service agency. This contract would cover the requests for consumer credit information until a statewide contract is in place.



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[www.childsup.cahwnet.gov](http://www.childsup.cahwnet.gov)

LCSA letter: 01-23

August 7, 2001

Page 2

**Option #2**

Counties that do not have delegated authority for contracts (or chose not to use it) could purchase the consumer credit information on a case by case basis, or issue a purchase order for a group of requests and pay the vendor through a bill for service process on weekly or monthly basis.

**Option #3**

Counties that do not have delegated authority for contracts (or chose not to use it) may partner with LCSAs that have an existing contract for credit reporting services through an interagency agreement.

Each option is an allowable cost under A-87 guidelines, and all costs will be reimbursed by CDSS through the claiming process.

We apologize for the inconvenience and will notify counties immediately when the state contract is in place with a credit information service. If you have any questions, please contact Jadine Takeuchi at (916) 464-5376.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
MIKE STRAZZO**

MIKE STRAZZO, Chief  
Administrative Resources Branch