

# Update for CAAs & Healthcare Advocates

*As of March 4th, 2008:*

## *State Is Now Sending Letters to Beneficiaries Statewide on Medi-Cal Citizenship Documentation*

Last June, the California Department of Health Care Services posted the final instructions to counties on how to implement requirements for proof of citizenship and Identity for Medi-Cal under the federal Deficit Reduction Act, also known as the DRA. However, it will take some time to create instructions, translations and schedules for counties to begin receiving documents. **At this time, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services will not ask citizens or nationals applying for or already on Medi-Cal for additional citizenship or identity documents.**

### **Here is what CAAs/Advocates should know:**

- All current Medi-Cal beneficiaries (except SSI recipients) will receive notification from the State Department of Health Care Services explaining the DRA documentation requirements. This notice is going out in three batches beginning, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> 2007, the second batch Feb. 4, 2008. At this time, Los Angeles County beneficiaries do not need to respond to the notice. LA County will send out a separate mailing when they begin collecting documents.
- Beneficiaries will also receive a notice indicating whether or not the state has matched their California birth record to the Medi-Cal database. Beneficiaries with a match have met their citizenship requirement, but may still have to provide proof of identity. Some other beneficiaries may not have to provide any new documents because they are in an exempt category. **CalWORKs beneficiaries are exempt**, although they will receive the state letter.
- Remember that this requirement does **not** apply to **non-citizen** immigrants. They are still eligible for Medi-Cal (some for full-scope and some for restricted scope) and should submit the same documents they did before.
- The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (LACDHS) will follow the same procedures DPSS follows when accepting Medi-Cal applications at County health facilities.
- Our job as Certified Application Assistors and advocates is to reassure people who may have heard misleading or incorrect information about Medi-Cal and, as always, to help them get and keep the benefits to which they are entitled. Because of the new documentation rules for citizens and nationals, it is more important than ever to help people retain their benefits.
- **Resources for further information:**
- We will produce materials in the next few weeks with more details on implementation. The state's notice to the counties, timeline for translation of their notices and how letters will go out may be viewed at [www.dhs.ca.gov/dra](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/dra).
- Implementation of the DRA requirements may differ in each county. You must check in each county or with knowledgeable advocates, such as the Health Consumer Alliance (HCA). For phone numbers in HCA counties, see [www.healthconsumer.org](http://www.healthconsumer.org).
- If you have questions, call: Health Consumer Center below, **or** Maternal and Child Health Access (213) 749-4261 **or** view our website: [www.mchaccess.org](http://www.mchaccess.org).

**If you would like to schedule or attend a DRA training, call Angela at Maternal and Child Health Access (213)749-4261.**

If clients have questions or problems, they can call the Health Consumer Center.

**Health Consumer Center (800) 896-3203**

*Trainings made possible by the generous support of L.A. Care Health Plan*