

Update for CAAs & Healthcare Advocates

In June, 2007, 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. **As of July 1st, 2008, Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services has begun asking citizens and nationals applying for or already on Medi-Cal to provide citizenship and identity documents.**

Here is what CAAs/Advocates should know:

- All non-exempt Medi-Cal applicants and beneficiaries will receive notices from the Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services instructing them on how to comply with the new DRA requirement.
- Non-exempt Medi-Cal applicants and beneficiaries will receive a notice indicating whether or not the State has matched their California birth record to the Medi-Cal database. Applicants/Beneficiaries with a match have met their citizenship requirement, but may still have to provide proof of identity. Some other applicants/beneficiaries may not have to provide any new documents because they are in an exempt category. **CalWORKs beneficiaries are exempt.**
- 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 the DRA 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:**
- Materials and details are available at our web site www.mchaccess.org. The state's notices and forms and instructions to the counties, may be viewed at 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.
- 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.

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.