



CDSS

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GOVERNOR

December 2, 2011

TO: ALL COUNTY IHSS PROGRAM MANAGERS

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICE OPTION (CFCO)

REFERENCES: SOCIAL SECURITY ACT (SSA) §1915(k);
WELFARE AND INSTITUTION CODE (W&IC) §14132.956;
ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 11-19, DATED
FEBRUARY 23, 2011

This In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program Managers' Letter provides counties with information regarding the new Community First Choice Option (CFCO) program.

Background

The Affordable Care Act of 2010, (enacted March 23, 2010), established a new State Plan Option entitled "Community First Choice Option." This State Plan Option provides Home and Community-Based Attendant Services and Supports. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will submit a final State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by December 1, 2011. This SPA will be based on the federal Social Security Act §1915(k) statute, as final federal regulations have not been released yet. CFCO provides States with 6% additional federal funding for CFCO services and supports.

Implementation

CFCO will be implemented effective December 1, 2011. All IHSS recipients currently in the Personal Care Services Program (PCSP) and IPO programs will be transitioned into CFCO.

Required Services

Under CFCO, there are four required services:

1. Assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs) and health-related tasks
 - These are the current personal care and related services offered in PCSP and IPO.

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2. Acquisition, maintenance, and enhancement of skills necessary for the individual to accomplish ADLs, IADLs and health-related tasks
 - This will be provided through the Teaching and Demonstration service, (as currently allowed under State regulations, Manual of Policies and Procedures, ((MPP) section 30-757.18).
3. Back-up Systems to ensure continuity of services and supports
 - This will be met through the expansion of the Individualized Back-Up and Risk Assessment process (SOC 864) to all CFCO participants. Counties will be required to complete an SOC 864 for all CFCO participants during assessments/reassessment beginning December 1, 2011.
4. The SOC 864 is being translated into the additional two threshold languages (Armenian and Chinese).
5. Voluntary training for recipients on how to manage care provider
 - A recipient training handbook is available online at the IHSS Consumer/Recipient Resources webpage at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/agedblinddisabled/PG1829.htm>.

CFCO's required services will be offered through the current PCSP/IPO structures. The enhanced assessment process already used in the IPO program, which includes person-centered assessments, appropriate referrals, etc., will now be used for all CFCO recipients.

Permissible Services and Supports

CFCO also allows for Permissible Services and Supports. At this time, only Restaurant Meal Allowance (RMA) will be offered as a permissible service to those CFCO recipients with an assessed need for Meal Preparation, Clean-up, and Shopping for Food.

Next Steps

CDSS will issue further instructions on CFCO implementation in future ACLs when the CFCO SPA is approved by CMS.

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If you have questions regarding any of this information, please call the Waiver and Policy Development Unit at (916) 651-5350 or email to APBpolicy@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Hafida Habek

HAFIDA HABEK, Chief
Policy & Litigations Branch

c: CWDA