Agenda for today:

• Explaining the new policies for seniors:
  • Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP)
    • Implementation and timeline
  • Standard Medical Deduction (SMD)
    • Implementation and timeline
NEW POLICIES

To streamline the application process!
Why have new policies?

- California population is aging
- Number of food insecure seniors is high and growing
- Recent studies show that additional SNAP dollars have a huge positive impact on senior health and reduced healthcare costs
- Senior participation is low—only 18% overall
Elderly Simplified Application Process (ESAP)

- ESAP is a waiver from the USDA (in 8 states)
- Only for CalFresh households with only elderly or disabled household members with no earned income
- Three components:
  1. Annual recertification interview waived
  2. Use existing data matches for verification
     - Only need to verify income, household size, residency, identity, and shelter expenses if questionable.
  3. 36-month certification period
ESAP Implementation

- Effective **October 1, 2017**: 
  - **Existing households**: at next recertification, eligible households will be converted to ESAP and assigned a 36-month certification period.
  - **New households**: ESAP eligible households will be assigned 36-month certification period.
- Counties will inform households that no interview is required at recertification.
- Counties will verify as much as possible electronically
- ESAP households will have SAR 7 at 12 & 24 months
Certification Timeline

Current certification period for elderly disabled households w/o earned income:

0 months  6 months  12 months  18 months  24 months

Application  SAR7  Recertification

Certification period for elderly/disabled households w/o earned income after ESAP:

0 mo.  6 mo.  12 mo.  18 mo.  24 mo.  30 mo.  36 mo.

Application  SAR7  SAR7  Recertification
Standard Medical Deduction (SMD)

- Allows clients to deduct a standard amount for medical expenses while only having to verify that costs exceed $35
- Available to any elderly or disabled clients with verified medical expenses between $35.01 and $155/mo
- Results in standard deduction of $120
- Starts October 1, 2017
- Households with over $155 are eligible to deduct real costs, since they exceed the SMD.
Why SMD?

Three benefits:
1. Encourages deduction utilization
2. Reduces verification requirements
   • Eliminates the need for verification at RRR.
3. Increases benefits for these households
   • Claiming medical expenses can result in higher CalFresh benefits
   • Benefit increase in CA expected to average $22 per month
SMD Implementation timeline

- Existing CalFresh households with medical expenses over $35 will have the SMD applied automatically before December 31, 2017
  - Households without verified deductions will be informed of their options
- All new households will have SMD applied (if between $35 and $155) at the time of application after October 1, 2017
  - Verification is not required at recertification unless the declaration is questionable or the HH would like to claim actual expenses over $155 per month.
SMD Implementation

Allowable medical costs include:

- Medical and dental care
- Hospitalization or outpatient treatment, nursing care and nursing home care
- Health and hospitalization insurance premiums and co-pays
- Prescription and over-the-county medication and medical supplies
- Hearing aids, eye glasses, dentures and prosthetics
- Home health care
- Transportation to the doctor, pharmacy, or any medical appointment
- Cost of service animals
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