



# CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS (CAPI) FACT SHEET 2009



## Background

The 1998 Budget Act Implementation Bill for Social Services (AB2779) established a new program, which authorized a state-funded Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI). The program was designed to provide cash assistance to certain aged, blind and disabled immigrants who could no longer qualify for the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) Program. The program was scheduled to become inoperative on July 1, 2000.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1111, signed into law on July 22, 1999:

- Established and extended through September 30, 2001 time-limited CAPI eligibility for certain immigrants who entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996, but were not eligible for the regular CAPI program; **and**,
- Exempted immigrants who are victims of abuse by their sponsor or sponsor’s spouse from sponsor deeming; **and**,
- Extended the state funded CAPI indefinitely.

AB429 signed into law on July 30, 2001 removed the sunset date for what was previously “time-limited CAPI” eligibility, and changed the name to “extended CAPI”. It also changed the sponsor-deeming period for extended CAPI recipients whose sponsor **is not** deceased, disabled or abusive from a 5-year deeming period to a 10-year deeming period.

## Eligible population

If otherwise eligible, the following legal non-citizens will qualify for CAPI:

### Regular CAPI

- Qualified aliens 65 years or older (aged) that lawfully entered the U.S. **on or before August 21, 1996**. If aged individuals are disabled or blind, they may be eligible to SSI/SSP. However, they may receive CAPI benefits until SSI/SSP is approved; **or**,
- Individuals who are disabled, blind or aged, and lawfully entered the U.S. **on or before August 21, 1996** (these individuals must provide proof of their Permanent Residence Under Color of Law [PRUCOL] status); **or**,
- Qualified aliens, who are disabled, blind or aged, lawfully entered the U.S. **on or after August 22, 1996** and have a sponsor who is deceased, disabled or abusive (or the sponsor’s spouse is abusive).

## Extended CAPI

Qualified aliens or PRUCOLs who are disabled, blind or aged, and entered the U.S. **on or after August 22, 1996**. Sponsored immigrants are subject to a 10 year deeming requirement.

### **Basic eligibility requirements**

Individuals applying for CAPI must complete the application process, which includes the following:

- Apply for SSI/SSP – This is necessary to determine if an individual is ineligible for SSI/SSP solely due to their immigrant status.
- Meet the income criteria – The individual's monthly income, after certain amounts are disregarded, cannot be greater than the maximum monthly CAPI benefit amount.
  - **Income** is anything the person receives in cash or in-kind that can be used or sold to meet their needs for food, clothing and shelter.
  - **In-kind income** is food, clothing or shelter, or something that can be used to get any of those.
- Meet the resource criteria – The resources a person may own cannot be greater than \$2,000 for an individual or \$3,000 for a couple.
  - Resources are cash or other property that the person can convert into cash for support. For example, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, mortgages, bank accounts, household goods, boats and vehicles, or land.
  - Some resources **are not** counted in determining eligibility, such as the principal place of residence (regardless of value), one car (used to provide necessary transportation or does not exceed a certain value), and household goods and personal effects of reasonable value.
- Meet CAPI living arrangements and residency requirements.
  - Any individual living in a public institution, such as jail, for an entire month is not eligible for CAPI.
  - Individuals who are not California residents are not eligible for CAPI. California residence is determined by physical presence in California with the intent to remain in the State.

**Benefits**

By law, CAPI payment amounts are \$10 less for an individual or \$20 less for a couple than the SSI/SSP payment standards.

CAPI participants may be eligible for Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), Protective Services and/or Food Stamp benefits. Individuals requesting such benefits must file the appropriate application for the other program.

**Application processing**

The Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance is the lead county in the North State/Orange CAPI Consortium. Sacramento County processes applications and maintains continuing cases for Orange County, Santa Barbara County and 26 Northern California counties including Sacramento County. The consortium counties will:

- Provide application assistance for CAPI applicants,
- Accept initial CAPI applications, and
- Forward them to the central office in Sacramento.

You can get recorded information about CAPI in a number of languages at the CAPI service center's toll free number 24 hours a day: **1-800-929-8118**.

If you want additional information about applying for CAPI, you can leave a message at the toll free number, and your phone call will be returned as soon as possible. **All calls are confidential.**

Sacramento County residents may file an application at the:

**Department of Human Assistance  
2101 Arena Blvd Suite 150  
Sacramento, Ca 95834-9973**