

California's Implementation of the DRA of 2005 Citizenship & Identity



**California Department of
Health Care Services**

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DRA Implementation

- The State law to implement the citizenship and identity requirements of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 is found in the Welfare and Institutions Code, section 14007.2.
- State law required the Department to work with advocates, providers, counties and health plans on the implementation of the DRA.

DRA Implementation

- The department worked to minimize adverse impacts of the new rules, provide the maximum flexibility allowed and comply with Federal and State laws.
- Careful implementation of the DRA requirements was based in part on the adverse impacts experienced by other states that implemented the new requirements too quickly.

Stakeholder Participation

- The Department issued an advance draft of the implementation instructions for public comments.
- Two stakeholder meetings were convened (on August 18, 2006 and February 22, 2007).
- The Department reviewed and considered hundreds of comments on the proposed DRA implementation requirements.

Stakeholder Participation

- Two Statewide conference calls were convened.
- Monthly updates continue to be provided at regular meetings with counties and other business partners and stakeholders.

Electronic Birth Record Matches

- Of the estimated 3.5 million beneficiaries that will need to provide evidence of citizenship, a total of 1.1 million were cleared for citizenship through the department's electronic birth record matching effort.
- Counties can request a birth record-match through MEDS and, if successful, that information is stored in MEDS.
- On an on-going basis birth record data is updated to maximize the number of valid matches.

CA Implementation Strategies

- Instructed Counties to assist applicants and beneficiaries who are incapable of acting on their own behalf.
 - Requires multiple contacts (by phone and by mail) to current beneficiaries subject to DRA requirements.
 - Requires a review of existing case files to determine if acceptable evidence has already been provided.
- Clarified that Counties can use Medi-Cal funds to pay for out-of-State birth certificates.

CA Implementation Strategies

- Allowed Federally Qualified Health Centers, Disproportionate Share Hospitals and additional outstation locations to view DRA documentation to assist applicants.
- Will soon allow certified application assistors to view DRA documents to assist applicants.
- Advised Counties to notify the State about any unique documents they believe meet the DRA requirements to determine if they are acceptable under federal rules

Outreach

- The Department implemented a multifaceted outreach plan to notify and inform applicants, beneficiaries, providers, health plans and stakeholders about the new citizenship/identity requirements.
- The outreach included forms, notices, flyers, poster and mass mailing. The outreach materials were available in all 13 threshold languages and were drafted for clarity and readability
- A Provider Bulletin was released August 2007 to providers explaining how they can assist Medi-Cal applicants and beneficiaries with the new citizenship/identity requirements

Outreach

- Quarterly mailings were sent to inform Medi-Cal beneficiaries of citizenship/identity requirements in advance of their annual redetermination.
- The Department undertook additional outreach to inform Medi-Cal managed care plans about the DRA requirements and to support them in their efforts to inform their plan members.

Automation Strategies

- The Department continues to work on Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) changes to assist counties, applicants and beneficiaries with DRA requirements such as:
 - Automatically identifying exempt individuals and storing the information in MEDS.
 - Implementing MEDS system logic to assist county automated systems with implementation of DRA requirements until final county programming is completed.
 - Alerting counties when required DRA information is missing from MEDS.

Monitoring and Tracking

- The Department is working with Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Health Management Associates, UCSF, National Health Law Project, CWDA, and Community Health Councils on a number of monitoring and tracking efforts to understand the impact of the DRA citizenship and identity requirements.
- The Department is reviewing MEDS data and will develop reports to monitor the impact of the DRA requirements.

Moving Forward

- The Department continues to explore ways to obtain additional data matches to verify citizenship and/or identity, such as birth record matches with other states and the use of data available from other State agencies.
- The Department continues to work closely with stakeholders and business partners to improve implementation of DRA requirements.
- The Department will continue to provide clarification on the new requirements through future All County Letters and through the Department's DRA website. The website is updated regularly with new questions and answers, updated forms and the latest outreach materials.
- <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/DRA.aspx>