State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services

California Department of Health Services

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May 3, 2005

TO: MATERNAL, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH (MCAH) DIRECTORS
SUDDEN INFANT DEALTH SYNDROME (SIDS) COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME PROGRAM ALLOCATION
PROGRAM POLICY ALERT #2004/05-07
SIDS PROGRAM CONTACT LIST

This Program Policy Alert serves to provide additional information and direction regarding the Fiscal Year (FY) 2005/06 allocations for the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Program. As displayed on the FY 2005/2006 MCAH Allocation Table, which can be viewed on the FY 2004-07 Application for Funding Agreement (AFA) Web Page: http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/administration/afa.htm, each jurisdiction received a specific annual allocation for locally identified SIDS activities and/or interventions.

GENERAL INFORMATION

MCAH Directors should work closely with the SIDS Coordinator in their jurisdiction in identifying the appropriate use of these funds. The SIDS Coordinator may or may not be employed in the local MCAH organizational structure. In some jurisdictions, the SIDS Coordinator is within a separate Public Health Nursing Section. The SIDS Coordinator should assist with the identification of existing activities, services, and interventions and areas of need to be addressed by this funding. (See attached list for Coordinator information.)

The Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning (MCAH/OFP) Branch has worked closely with the California SIDS Program contractor to make existing SIDS materials and training curricula available on their website in downloadable formats.

The contractor is currently restructuring the California SIDS Program website, www.californiasids.com to make all of their material available on line by July 1, 2005.

CALIFORNIA SIDS PROGRAM CONTRACT

For you planning purposes, in fiscal years 2005-2008, the California SIDS Program contractor will:

- Provide data on SIDS deaths in California and monitor/document compliance with the SIDS mandates.
- Provide regular and ongoing SIDS education and training programs, technical assistance and consultation to persons who interact with parents and care givers following a death from SIDS. This will include:
    - 1 – 2 education/inservice/training programs yearly for public health professionals and/or emergency personnel;
    - An annual SIDS conference for SIDS parents, families and professionals;
    - Provide consultation, technical assistance and referral services.
- Increase the competency of those who interact with SIDS parents and caregivers in providing support services and increase public and professional awareness of SIDS.
- Support local SIDS Coordinators in the provision of SIDS bereavement support services, educational outreach and risk reduction including outreach to high risk populations.
- Participate in meetings of the State SIDS Advisory Council and Northern/Southern California Regional Councils.
- Maintain and update the California SIDS Program website, www.californiasids.com, to meet the needs of those affected and involved with SIDS. This includes:
    - Provide SIDS specific literature, resources, and materials;
    - Promote SIDS risk reduction and the Back to Sleep Campaign;
    - Produce periodic updates for parent and professionals.

ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY

The specific allocations were determined for each jurisdiction by weighting the percent of the state total of presumed SIDS deaths experienced over the past five years (1999-2003) and the percent of all live births during that same period of time. For jurisdictions that would have received less than $3,000, a minimum amount of $3,000 was allocated.

APPLICATION FOR AGREEMENT (AFA) REQUIREMENTS

http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/administration/afa.htm

Each jurisdiction must include in the MCAH Scope of Work (SOW), a SIDS specific item or items under Objective #4: Address priority unmet needs identified in the local Community Health Assessment and MCAH Plan; continue to monitor MACH needs and make modifications to the local Plan in order to achieve the desired outcome of improved maternal, child and adolescent health.

The number and types of activities and/or interventions to be addressed will directly relate to the amount of the allocation and the identified local needs. The program narrative and budget justification must identify the specific use(s) of the SIDS allocation.

SUGGESTED INTERVENTIONS

The following list provides suggestions for the use of the local SIDS allocations. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive list. Each jurisdiction shall identify activities that meet the local community needs related to SIDS.

- Support mandated activities, which are not currently reimbursed by the Commission on State Mandates, i.e. visits to families or childcare providers when there is a presumed SIDS death.
- Produce/reproduce SIDS educational materials
- Attend the annual SIDS Conference, and/or Northern/Southern California Regional Councils.
- Provide trainings and materials to:
    - Hospital staff
    - Child care providers
    - Foster care providers
    - First responders
- Attend SIDS training(s)
- Contract with the California SIDS Program Contractor to provide county/regional trainings
- Attend local health fairs, conferences and other events to provide SIDS information and education.

This information is intended to provide guidance and suggestions for local use of the SIDS allocations. If you have any questions, please contact your Program Consultant, Contract Manager or Carolynn Michaels, State Coordinator for the SIDS Program.

Sincerely,

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CALIFORNIA LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME

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