IHSS Application Process

The applicant or their representative calls (916) 874-9471 to apply for IHSS. An Eligibility Specialist will process the application over the telephone.

The Eligibility Specialist will:

- Check if you are on Medi-Cal. If you don’t have current Medi-Cal, a referral will be made for you to the Medi-Cal program and they will send you an application. A Medi-Cal eligibility determination must be completed or your IHSS application will be denied.
- Mail a Health Care Certification (SOC 873) form to you. The SOC 873 must be returned within 45 days and must indicate a need for IHSS or your IHSS application will be denied.

Once your Medi-Cal eligibility is determined and the SOC 873 is returned indicating need for service, your case will be assigned to an Intake Social Worker.

The Intake Social Worker will contact you to schedule an intake assessment interview. This interview will be held at your home.

Once your need for IHSS is determined, a Notice of Action will be mailed to you informing you of your case approval or denial.

Denial

If denied, you will receive a Notice of Action of Denial informing you of the reason for denial.

OR

Approval

If approved, you will receive a Notice of Action of Approval informing you of the services and number of hours authorized.

Upon receipt of your Approval Notice you will hire a provider. For assistance see the Provider Enrollment and Orientation Checklist or call the IHSS Caregiver Registry at (916) 874-2888.

To maintain your IHSS eligibility, your Medi-Cal eligibility must remain active. Please contact Medi-Cal at (916) 874-3100 directly for annual renewal information.

A reassessment interview will be conducted at your home every 12 months to determine your continued IHSS eligibility.