

**TO:** Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

**FROM:** Deborah Bachrach, Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Health Insurance Programs

**SUBJECT:** United States (U.S.) Passport Card

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** Local District Support Unit  
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The purpose of this General Information System (GIS) message is to provide local departments of social services (LDSS) with information regarding the U.S. Passport Card (PASS card).

Beginning February 1, 2008, U.S. citizens were able to apply for the new U.S. Passport Card (PASS card). The intent of the passport card is to facilitate entry and expedite document processing at U.S. land and sea ports-of-entry when arriving from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda. The card may not be used to travel by air.

The PASS card will have a photo and printed information similar to what is on a U.S. Passport Book, such as name, date and place of birth, gender and the card's issuance and expiration dates. It will have the same validity period as a U.S. Passport Book and will be a fully valid passport that attests to the U.S. citizenship and identity of the bearer.

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 amended Medicaid regulations requiring states to obtain satisfactory documentary evidence of citizenship and identity for all Medicaid applicants or recipients. A U.S. Passport Book is one of the primary documents listed in the DRA that serves as proof of both citizenship and identity. **LDSS eligibility workers must also treat the PASS card as primary documentation of citizenship and identity.**