



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

**REASON FOR THIS
TRANSMITTAL**

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

June 11, 2013

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 13-48

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CALFRESH COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CaWORKs): COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) INCREASE TO THE MINIMUM BASIC STANDARD OF ADEQUATE CARE (MBSAC) LEVELS

REFERENCE: WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS (W&I) CODE SECTIONS 11450, 11452, and 11453; ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 11-29

MBSAC INCREASE

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties of an increase to the CalWORKs MBSAC levels effective July 1, 2013. The W&I Code Section 11453 provides CalWORKs MBSAC levels shall be adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living. This year's COLA increases the MBSAC and Income-In-Kind (IIK) levels by 2.65 percent. The new MBSAC levels are to be used in determining applicant financial eligibility for those families that apply for CalWORKs on or after July 1, 2013.

The new CalWORKs MBSAC Payment Standards Chart for Regions 1 and 2 is enclosed to assist in implementing these changes. The new IIK levels are included in this chart as these amounts also increased as a result of the MBSAC COLA.

Per W&I Code Section 11453(c)(6), beginning in Fiscal Year 2010-11, no adjustment to the maximum aid payment (MAP) levels shall be made unless otherwise specified by statute. As there has been no COLA increase to the CalWORKs MAP levels, refer to ACL No. 11-29 for current and ongoing MAP levels, which have been in effect since July 1, 2011.

If a County Welfare Department (CWD) is unable to implement the new MBSAC level in a timely manner for applicants by July 1, 2013, the CWD must take immediate steps to review and correct any applications denied on or after July 1, 2013, if the sole reason for denial was failure to pass the applicant financial eligibility income test.

For existing recipients, the MBSAC COLA change is a county-initiated mid-quarter action; therefore, the new IIK amounts should be used prospectively as soon as timely and adequate notice can be provided.

REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE (RCA), ENTRANT CASH ASSISTANCE (ECA), AND TRAFFICKING AND CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TCVAP)

These implementation instructions for the MBSAC COLA and the IIK changes shall also apply to RCA, ECA, and TCVAP (cash assistance and CalWORKs) applicants and recipients effective July 1, 2013.

CONTACTS

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this ACL, please contact the following CDSS representatives:

- CalWORKs Eligibility County Consultant (916) 654-1322
- CalFresh County Consultant (916) 645-1896
- Refugee Programs Bureau (916) 654-4356

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

Attachment