



CDSS

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

September 06, 2013

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 13-70

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY CALFRESH SPECIALISTS
ALL CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES
ALL TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY NET, DRUG FELON AND FLEEING FELON AID CODES

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY LETTERS (ACL) 97-65, 99-54, 02-66, 11-33; WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) 11251.3, 11486, AND 17012.5; MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) 82-832, AND 82-833

This letter transmits new aid codes for CalWORKs safety net, drug felon and fleeing felon cases, effective October 1, 2013. Use of these codes as instructed in this letter is required, and will help the state meet its federal work participation rate (WPR) requirement. All cases in which all adult parents in the assistance unit (AU) have reached the 48-month time limit for cash aid (Safety Net cases), or are a drug or fleeing felon, who reside with an eligible child that continues to receive assistance must be tracked with one of two new aid codes, as instructed in this letter.

BACKGROUND

The May 2013 revision of the Governor’s Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14, provided Non-Maintenance of Effort (MOE) General Fund (GF) to fund the assistance and administration costs for cases with an un-aided, but federally work-eligible adult (single-parent family) or adults (two-parent family). These are the Safety Net cases, and cases in which all adults are excluded under the drug felon rules as described in WIC sections 11251.3 and 17012.50 and fleeing felon rules as described in WIC section 11486. The intent was to remove these cases from the state’s Temporary Assistance for Needy

Families (TANF) caseload for the purpose of excluding them from the TANF WPR calculation. Safety Net, drug felon and fleeing felon cases are not subject to a CalWORKs participation requirement, but are currently required to be included in California's WPR calculation, because the un-aided adult in the case meets the TANF definition of "work-eligible individual", as described in 45 Code of Federal Regulations 261.2. As a result, a significant portion of these cases—those not meeting federal participation requirements—have a negative impact on the state's WPR.

This population will be funded in the new separate state program outside of the existing federal TANF and state MOE funding structure for CalWORKs. Therefore, the new aid codes will be used to track all Safety Net, drug felon, and fleeing felon families, regardless of their level of participation in relation to federal work requirements.

DEFINITION OF POPULATION

The following definitions pertain to the populations to be funded by the new aid codes:

Safety Net – Cases in which all adults have been discontinued from cash aid and removed from the AU due to reaching the CalWORKs 48-month limit as defined in the MPP Section 82-833.

Drug Felon - Is an individual defined in MPP Section 82-832 (j).

Fleeing Felon- Is an individual defined in MPP Section 82-832 (h).

DEFINITION OF AID CODES FOR CalWORKs SAFETY NET CASES OR DRUG/FLEEING FELON CASES

The new aid codes, K1 and 3F, have been established for single- and two-parent cases, respectively, in which the adult in a single-parent family or both adults in a two-parent family have received the maximum 48 months of cash aid (Safety Net cases) or are ineligible for aid due to a felony drug conviction or an outstanding warrant for arrest (drug and fleeing felon cases). These codes are defined as follows:

Definition for Aid Code K1 — Single-Parent Safety Net, Drug Felon and Fleeing Felon Child-Only Cases (Non-Two parent case). The new aid code, K1, CalWORKs Single-Parent Safety Net or Drug/Fleeing Felon Family, is for CalWORKs cases that include a single, un-aided Safety Net, drug felon or fleeing felon adult parent (and no other adults in the CalWORKs household) and at least one aided child. This code provides for continued cash aid and Medi-Cal coverage for children whose parents have been discontinued from, or are ineligible for, cash aid due to their status as a Safety Net adult, or are an adult subject to the drug felon or fleeing felon ineligibility rules. (The full-scope, no share-of-cost (SOC) benefits under this aid code remains the same.)

Cases receiving assistance under Aid Code K1 are not subject to the TANF WPR calculation.

Definition for Aid Code 3F — Two- Parent Safety Net, Drug Felon and Fleeing Felon Child-Only Cases. The new aid code, 3F, CalWORKs Two-Parent Safety Net or Drug/Fleeing Felon Family, is for CalWORKs cases that include two or more un-aided Safety Net, drug felon or fleeing felon adult parents and at least one aided child. This code provides for continued cash aid and Medi-Cal coverage for children whose parents have been discontinued from, or are ineligible for, cash aid due to their status as Safety Net adults, or are adults subject to the drug felon or fleeing felon ineligibility rules. (The full-scope, no SOC benefits under this aid code remains the same.)

Cases receiving assistance under Aid Code 3F are not subject to the TANF WPR calculation.

CASES NOT MEETING THE CalWORKs SAFETY NET, DRUG FELON AND FLEEING FELON CASE DEFINITION

All Other Families Cases/ TANF Timed-Out Family Cases – If an All Other Families case contains two aided adults, and only one adult is discontinued from the AU for reaching the time limit, this case is not considered a Safety Net case. For example, cases with incapacity as a basis for deprivation where one adult is disabled and exempt from the CalWORKs 48-month time limit would remain in its existing aid code and should not be shifted into a Safety Net aid code.

Two-Parent Cases – Two parent cases in which only one adult parent reaches the CalWORKs time limit should not be considered a Safety Net case and should continue to be coded under aid code 35, 3M, or 3U, as appropriate.

Zero-Parent Cases – Current zero-parent cases (child-only cases that are in this category for reasons other than the adult(s) reaching the CalWORKs 48-month time limit or being a drug or fleeing felon) should continue to be coded under existing zero-parent aid codes (33, 3R, 3G, and 3H). A zero parent case is one in which the parent(s) or caretaker(s) is excluded from or ineligible for cash assistance. Examples of zero-parent cases include, but are not limited to, cases in which the parent(s) in the home is receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and therefore not aided, or cases in which the caretaker relative is non-needy and not aided or the parent is an ineligible non-citizen but the child(ren) is a U.S. citizen or eligible immigrant. Safety Net and drug and fleeing felon cases should not be coded as zero-parent cases, but should be tracked with new aid codes K1 or 3F, in accordance with this letter.

IMPLEMENTATION

The new aid codes (K1 and 3F) are now available for programming into county eligibility systems. Implementation of the new aid codes must be completed by October 1, 2013, and must include the following:

- All cases assigned to aid codes 3A and 3C, which were implemented by ACL 02-66, must be reassigned to the new aid codes K1 and 3F appropriately.

- Counties must review all cases assigned to aid code 33 to identify and reassign cases with a drug or fleeing felon adult or adults to the appropriate aid code, K1 or 3F, as instructed by this letter. (These cases are exclusive to cases which include either a single-parent family with the sole adult subject to the drug and/or fleeing felon ineligibility rules or two-parent family in which both adults are subject to the drug and/or fleeing felon ineligibility rules.)

ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (EBT) –BENEFIT TYPES AND NEW AID CODES - AUTOMATION

The new aid codes will be associated with existing EBT benefit types that are currently programmed in the eligibility system. The EBT benefit types that are associated with the new aid codes are as follows:

EBT Benefit Type	Aid Code	Program Description
• WTWNF	K1, 3F	Welfare-to-Work non-federal
• SAFEAL	K1	Safety Net, Fleeing Felon, Drug Felon – single-parent families
• SAFETP	3F	Safety Net, Fleeing Felon, Drug Felon – two-parent families

FISCAL CLAIMING AND DATA REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS

Fiscal claiming and data reporting instructions will be provided under separate cover. For fiscal claiming questions, please contact your Fiscal Policy Bureau county analyst listed in County Fiscal Letter No. 13/14-03, and for questions about data reporting you may contact the Data Systems and Survey Design Bureau at (916) 651-8269.

If you have questions regarding this ACL, please contact your county's Employment Bureau consultant or call the Employment Bureau at (916) 654 2137.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division