



JOHN A. WAGNER
DIRECTOR

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

April 8, 2009

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 09-20

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs): GRANT REDUCTION; SUSPENSION OF THE COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) TO THE MAXIMUM AID PAYMENT (MAP) LEVELS; COLA INCREASE TO THE MINIMUM BASIC STANDARD OF ADEQUATE CARE (MBSAC) LEVELS

REFERENCE: WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS (W&I) CODE SECTIONS 11450, 11452, and 11453; SB(X3) 6 (CHAPTER 13, STATUTES OF 2009-10 THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION)

The purpose of this letter is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with implementation instructions and a mass informing stuffer necessary to implement statewide four percent CalWORKs grant cuts. This letter also includes the new MAP and MBSAC amounts. All of these changes are effective on July 1, 2009.

CalWORKs GRANT REDUCTION

SB(X3) 6, signed on February 20, 2009, implements a four percent reduction to the CalWORKs MAP levels. This grant reduction affects all grant levels, including Region 1 and 2 and exempt and non-exempt MAP levels. A decrease to a household's CalWORKs grant will likely result in an increase to their Food Stamp allotment amounts.

Please see the mass informing stuffer attached to this letter. The stuffer provides information about the changes in cash aid levels and acts as an advance notice to clients. The Department of Social Services will send this stuffer to all CalWORKs clients by the end of May through a statewide mailer. The Department strongly

encourages CWDs to provide a copy of this mass informing notice to any new CalWORKs applicants at the time they apply, as they will not be included in the statewide mailing, but will also experience this same grant reduction effective July 1, 2009.

Please see the updated MAP levels chart, attached.

COLA SUSPENSION

W&I Code Section 11453 provides that the CalWORKs MAP levels shall be adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living. Along with the MAP reduction, this annual COLA increase to the CalWORKs MAP levels has been suspended for the 2009-10 fiscal year by SB(X3) 6.

MBSAC INCREASE

The CalWORKs MBSAC levels are not subject to the COLA suspension or the four percent grant reduction and will be increased effective July 1, 2009. W&I Code Section 11453 provides that the 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 levels by 1.53 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, 2009.

Please see the updated CalWORKs MBSAC and Income In-Kind Payment Standards Chart, attached.

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

This grant cut, MAP COLA suspension and MBSAC increase shall also apply to RCA and TCVAP applicants and recipients.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Recipients receiving both food stamps and CalWORKs, RCA, or TCVAP may get an increase in their food stamp allotment due to the decrease in their cash grant.

ATTACHMENTS

Please refer to the attachment for updated MAP and MBSAC levels. Mass informing stuffer and mandatory Notice of Action language is also attached.

CAMERA READY COPIES AND TRANSLATIONS

For a camera-ready copy in English, contact the Forms Management Unit at (919) 657-1907. If your office has internet access you may obtain these forms from the CDSS webpage at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_271.htm. When all translations are completed per MPP Section 21-115.2, including Spanish forms, they are posted on an on-going basis on our web site. Copies of the translated forms can be obtained at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_274.htm. For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651-8876.

CONTACTS

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this ACL, please contact your CalWORKs county consultant. For questions regarding the Food Stamp Program, please contact your Food Stamp Branch Policy Consultant at (916) 651-8047. For questions regarding RCA and TCVAP, please contact Ms. Jeanette Robbins in the Refugee Programs Bureau at (916) 653-8980.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

CHARR LEE METSKER
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

Attachments

cc: CWDA
CSAC