



CDSS

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

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

January 14, 2014

ALL COUNTY LETTER 14-04

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS  
ALL CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS  
(CaWORKs): CASH AID AND PREGNANCY SPECIAL NEEDS (PSN) FOR  
PREGNANT WOMEN WITH NO OTHER ELIGIBLE CHILD

REFERENCE: ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 1640 (CHAPTER 778, STATUTES OF 2012); SENATE  
BILL (SB) 1041 (CHAPTER 41, STATUTES OF 2012); WELFARE AND  
INSTITUTIONS (W&I) CODE SECTION 11450(b) (1) and MANUAL OF  
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) SECTIONS 40-105.4, 40-107(a), 44-  
211.6, 44-340, and 44-352.2.

The purpose of this letter is to provide instructions to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) on the implementation of AB 1640, which expanded eligibility, under some circumstances, for CalWORKs aid for pregnant women with no other eligible children, beginning January 1, 2013. AB 1640 provides that a pregnant teen age 18 or younger, with no other eligible children in the home, can be eligible for CalWORKs cash aid and \$47 in pregnancy special need (PSN) payments upon verification of pregnancy. This rule applies when the Cal-Learn Program is operative. The Cal-Learn program was temporarily suspended from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, as a result of SB 1041, and was reinstated July 1, 2012.

Prior to the passage of AB 1640, a pregnant woman with no other eligible child in the home was eligible for CalWORKs cash aid and \$47 in pregnancy special needs (PSN) payments beginning in the third trimester of her pregnancy. In other words, a “pregnant woman only” (PWO) case meant that the woman was eligible for CalWORKs cash aid and PSN payments in the month of the child’s birth and the three months immediately prior to the birth month, pursuant to MPP Section 44-211.6. The exception to this rule was when the PWO was also eligible for Cal-Learn. A PWO who was eligible for Cal-Learn was also eligible for cash aid and PSN at any time after providing medical verification of her pregnancy and not limited to the last trimester of her pregnancy.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

Prior to the passage of AB 1640, a pregnant (PWO) teen who was age 18 or younger and who had graduated from high school or obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, would not be eligible for CalWORKs or PSN payments until her third trimester. With the passage of AB 1640, a PWO who is 18 years of age or younger, now may be eligible for CalWORKs and PSN payments upon verification of her pregnancy, regardless of whether she is eligible for the Cal-Learn program.

This law change was effective January 1, 2013; however due to challenges in attempting to isolate this population for time-on-aid tracking requirements and the uncertainty of policy changes anticipated with the pending implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or Covered California, implementation instructions were delayed. Upon receipt of this ACL, CWDs must implement the new rule immediately, by providing instructions to staff and ensuring new applicant eligibility is reviewed and approved in accordance with this law change.

CWDs must review cases at intake, redetermination, and during processing of the SAR 7 to identify clients who may have been eligible for expanded eligibility (e.g. additional CalWORKs aid payments and PSN payments from the date of pregnancy verification). Upon determining that a client would have been eligible to receive cash aid and PSN, the CWD shall provide a supplemental payment in accordance with MPP Section 44-340.

Once a pregnant teen is added through AB 1640, they remain eligible based on the pregnancy until they become financially ineligible or the pregnancy ends. This is true even if the pregnant teen reaches her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to her third trimester. When determining eligibility for this cash supplement, CWDs must also review Welfare-to-Work (WTW) participation requirements and time-on-aid for this population.

When issuing the supplemental payment for any retroactive AB 1640 coverage, the CWDs are prohibited from retroactively counting the 24-month clock, unless the teen was offered the full WTW opportunities and services. Clients who receive the retroactive supplement payment shall be granted good cause from WTW participation for the period between the client meeting AB 1640 eligibility requirements and when regular CalWORKs was actually granted in the third trimester, if applicable.

#### 24/48/60-Month Time Clocks

Current WTW exemption rules will apply to this population, with regard to pregnancy and whether it prevents the woman from participating in WTW activities, as well as all other exemptions. This letter provides clarification regarding pregnant and parenting teens for CWDs to accurately count the months of aid for the AB 1640 population (see Attachment A).

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CWDs are reminded that the 24-month time clock never starts until the CWD has performed the comprehensive discussion and the individual has signed a WTW plan that identifies all the necessary supportive services (ACL 12-67).

Aid Codes

Due to policy changes resulting from the implementation of the ACA, CDSS, in consultation with the Department of Health Care Services, has determined there is no need to distinguish this population separately for Medi-Cal purposes. As such, CWDs can assign aid codes for pregnant teens who qualify for cash aid and Medi-Cal under AB 1640 using existing aid code guidelines and existing exemption codes for WTW participation and time on aid tracking.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau at (916) 654-1322.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

TODD R. BLAND  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division

Attachment