

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN REGULATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS)

ITEM # Electronic Interview for California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to
Kids (CalWORKs)

CDSS hereby gives notice of the proposed regulatory action(s) described below. Any person interested may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the proposed regulations at a public hearing to be held on November 12, 2019, at the following address:

Office Building #8
744 P St. Room 103
Sacramento, California

The public hearing will convene at 10:00 a.m. and will remain open only if attendees are presenting testimony. The purpose of the hearing is to receive public testimony, not to engage in debate or discussion. The Department will adjourn the hearing immediately following the completion of testimony presentations. The above-referenced facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need a language interpreter at the hearing (including sign language), please notify CDSS at least two weeks prior to the hearing.

Statements or arguments relating to the proposals may also be submitted in writing, e-mail, or by facsimile to the address/number listed below. All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 12, 2019.

Following the public hearing CDSS may thereafter adopt the proposals substantially as described below or may modify the proposals if the modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. Except for nonsubstantive, technical, or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposal will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption to all persons who testify or submit written comments during the public comment period, and all persons who request notification. Please address requests for regulations as modified to the agency representative identified below.

Copies of the express terms of the proposed regulations and the Initial Statement of Reasons are available from the office listed below. This notice, the Initial Statement of Reasons and the text of the proposed regulations are available on the [CDSS website](https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Letters-Regulations/Legislation-and-Regulations/CDSS-Regulations-Home-Page/CDSS-Regulation-Changes-In-Process-and-Completed-Regulations/Public-Hearing-Information) (<https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Letters-Regulations/Legislation-and-Regulations/CDSS-Regulations-Home-Page/CDSS-Regulation-Changes-In-Process-and-Completed-Regulations/Public-Hearing-Information>). Additionally, all the information which CDSS considered as the basis for these proposed regulations (i.e., rulemaking file) is available for public reading at the address listed below. Following the public hearing, copies of the Final Statement of Reasons will also be available at the following address:

CONTACT: California Department of Social Services
 Office of Regulations Development
 744 P. Street, MS 8-4-192
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Tel: (916) 657-2856, Fax: (916) 654-3286
 Email: ord@dss.ca.gov

CHAPTERS

Manual of Policies and Procedures, Chapter 40-000

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

These proposed regulations amend CalWORKs interviewing regulations to comply with Senate Bill (SB) 947 (Chapter 798, Statutes of 2016), which provides County Welfare Departments (CWDs) the option to conduct the personal interviews in the CalWORKs program telephonically or by other electronic means. Current laws such as Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 11052.5 and Manual of Policies and Procedures sections 40-129.412 and 40-131.11 describe the interview requirements of CalWORKs applicants, including face-to-face interviews. These proposed regulation changes will only apply to individuals participating in the CalWORKs program.

Before the enactment of SB 947, CWDs were required to conduct a face-to-face interview prior to granting aid at application and at redetermination. SB 947 provides CWDs the option of conducting telephonic/electronic interviews for the CalWORKs program.

This regulatory action will benefit the health and welfare of California residents. The new electronic interviewing option offers a convenient and efficient way for individuals to apply and complete the eligibility determination process for the CalWORKs program. This regulatory action does not make changes to regulations involving worker safety or the state's environment. The amended and adopted regulations will increase the likelihood of stable families moving towards self-sufficiency, resulting in a positive economic impact to the state. In addition, the proposed regulations will make other technical, conforming changes, such as renumbering of sections and amending cross references, as necessary.

CDSS conducted a review of existing regulations and evaluated the proposed regulations for any inconsistency or incompatibility. CDSS has found these are the only regulations needing amendments to include the telephonic/electronic interview option for the CalWORKs program. Therefore, the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations, but do fulfill the intent of the Legislature in enacting SB 947.

COST ESTIMATE

1. Costs or Savings to State Agencies: None
2. Costs to Local Agencies or School Districts Which Must Be Reimbursed in Accordance with Government Code Sections 17500 - 17630: None
3. Nondiscretionary Costs or Savings to Local Agencies: None
4. Federal Funding to State Agencies: None

LOCAL MANDATE STATEMENT

There regulations do not impose a mandate upon local agencies or on school districts. There are no state-mandated local costs in this order that require reimbursement under the laws of California.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON BUSINESS

CDSS has made an initial determination that the proposed action will not have a significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. This determination was made based on the fact that these regulations only apply to individuals participating in the CalWORKs program.

STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL COST IMPACT ON PRIVATE PERSONS OR BUSINESSES

CDSS is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative, private person, or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. This determination was made based on the fact that these regulations only apply to individuals participating in the CalWORKs program.

SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

CDSS has made an initial determination that there is no impact on small businesses because of filing these regulations because these regulations are only applicable to state and county agencies. These regulations are mandated by SB 947 and are only applicable to the CalWORKs program; therefore, they do not have a cost impact on the private sector, including small businesses.

STATEMENT OF RESULTS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The adoption of the proposed amendments will neither create nor eliminate jobs in the State of California nor result in the elimination of existing businesses or create or expand businesses in the State of California.

The amended and adopted regulations will increase the likelihood of stable families moving towards self-sufficiency, resulting in a positive economic impact to the state, as the new electronic interviewing option offers a convenient and efficient way for individuals to apply and complete the eligibility determination process for the CalWORKs program. There are no additional benefits for worker safety or the state's environment, as the regulations only affect individuals applying for the CalWORKs program.

STATEMENT OF EFFECT ON HOUSING COSTS

The proposed regulatory action will have no effect on housing costs.

STATEMENT OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

In developing the regulatory action, CDSS did not consider alternatives because the department is legally bound to implement WIC section 11052.5, as required by SB 947 (Chapter 798, Statutes of 2016).

CDSS must determine that no reasonable alternative considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of CDSS would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the regulations are proposed or would be as effective as and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

CDSS invites interested persons to present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the proposed regulations at the scheduled hearing or during the written comment period.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE CITATIONS

WIC sections 10553, 10554, 10604, and 18904 give CDSS the authority to write these regulations and WIC sections 10613, 11052.5, 11209, 11253.5, 11265.8, 11265.8(a), 11280, 11323.3, 11324.8(a), 11495.1, 11500(b), and 11511(a) are being referenced to make these regulations more specific.

CDSS REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING THE RULEMAKING PROCESS OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION

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