

Integrated Earnings Clearance/Fraud Detection (IFD)

Integrated Earnings Clearance/Fraud Detection (IFD) system is a quarterly match performed by California Department of Social Services (CDSS) comparing CalWORKs and CalFresh records submitted by counties (through the consortia) or from the Medi-Cal Master Extract File (MMEF) against the quarterly wage records maintained by the Employment Development Department (EDD) and the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP) records maintained by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

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History

The IFD system (sometimes called Wage Match or ESC 155) has been available for the CalWORKs (formerly called AFDC) program since 1972 when it was called the Earning Clearance System (ECS). In 1983, ECS was redesigned and renamed Integrated Earning Clearance/Fraud Detection System, while adding the Non-Assistance Food Stamp (NAFS) population and duplicate aid detection features to the system. In 1984, Public Law 98-369, also known as the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, section 2651 formally required states to establish an income and eligibility verification system for food stamps (now called CalFresh) and AFDC (CalWORKs). In February 1986, Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 205.55 required states to check wages and income every three months.

Data Sources

The data come from:

- Employment Development Department (EDD)
- Social Security Administration (SSA)
- Counties and Consortia
- Medi-Cal Master Extract File (MMEF) from Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)

Criteria

The IFD is composed of two parts:

1. Wage Match

- Information submitted by the counties (through the consortia) is compared for all recipients that are eligible during the specified quarter, regardless of whether they have reported income or not, with employer-reported wage data from EDD.
- If the county does not submit their county welfare recipient file, CDSS will use the MMEF to select active cases and match them against the employer reported wage data from EDD.
- The match is made on SSN and the first five characters of the last name or first initial of the first name.
- Persons who work for the Federal government (civilian or military), are self-employed, or who worked in another state are not included in this match – they are part of the BEER match.
- Medi-Cal recipients are included only in the Wage match but not included in the duplicate aid process.

2. Duplicate Aid Match

- Data is compared between SSA and what the recipient reported to check if a recipient is collecting CalFresh and/or CalWORKs while collecting SSI/SSP.
- The system combines all of the data submitted by the counties (through the consortia) and looks for two or more records containing the same SSN, gender, DOB, and the first five characters of the last name (or the first three characters of the first name).
- A duplicate aid situation will only be reported back to the consortia if the situation exists for three consecutive months during the quarter.

Tolerance Level

The consortia will only receive cases which show that the difference between the quarterly wages reported to EDD and those reported by the county exceed a specified level. The current discrepancy level for CalWORKs and CalFresh is \$1,000 or greater / Medi-Cal is \$5,000 or greater.

Frequency

The match is sent quarterly, on January, April, July, and October. The consortia can expect the report at the beginning of the given month.

Method

The IFD is accessible through the CDSS Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) server. The consortia retrieve the abstract reports from the SFTP server and can be viewed as a PDF or printed and used to perform the validation.

Age of Data

The information is seven to nine months old. The reports contain wage information two quarters prior to the current quarter; making the data approximately nine months old by the time it reaches the consortia (i.e. wage information received for the period of January to March will show up two quarters later in October).

Mandates

The requirements to the IFD are:

- Federal Mandate: Public Law 98-369
- 45 CFR 205.55 requires states to obtain wage information on a quarterly basis.
- This match must meet the 45 day requirement ([MPP 20-006.421](#)) for open aid cases. Current federal rules prescribe that action may be delayed beyond the 45-day time frame on no more than 20 percent of the IEVS case matches.

Notes
