



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE  
DIRECTOR

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

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
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

June 12, 2014

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 14-39

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CaWORKs): COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) INCREASE TO THE MINIMUM BASIC STANDARD OF ADEQUATE CARE (MBSAC) LEVELS

REFERENCE: WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS (W&I) CODE SECTIONS 11450, 11452, and 11453; ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) No. 13-48

**MBSAC INCREASE**

The purpose of this ACL is to inform counties of an increase to the CaWORKs MBSAC levels effective July 1, 2014. The W&I Code Section 11453 provides CaWORKs MBSAC levels shall be adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living. The Fiscal Year 2014-15 COLA increases the MBSAC and Income-In-Kind (IIC) levels by 2.17 percent. The new MBSAC levels are to be used in determining applicant financial eligibility for those families that apply for CaWORKs on or after July 1, 2014.

The new CaWORKs MBSAC Payment Standards Chart for Regions 1 and 2 is attached to this ACL to assist in implementing these changes. The new IIC levels are included in this chart as these amounts also increased as a result of the MBSAC COLA.

If a County Welfare Department's (CWD's) Statewide Automated Welfare System is unable to implement the new MBSAC level in a timely manner for applicants by July 1, 2014, the CWD must take immediate steps to review and correct any

applications denied on or after July 1, 2014, if the sole reason for denial was failure to pass the applicant financial eligibility income test due to the MBSAC or IIK amounts used.

For existing recipients, the MBSAC COLA change is a county-initiated mid-period action; therefore, the new IIK amounts should be used prospectively as soon as timely and adequate notice can be provided.

**REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE (RCA), ENTRANT CASH ASSISTANCE (ECA), AND TRAFFICKING AND CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TCVAP)**

These implementation instructions for the MBSAC COLA and the IIK changes shall also apply to RCA, ECA, and TCVAP (cash assistance and CalWORKs) applicants and recipients effective July 1, 2014.

**CONTACTS**

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this ACL, please contact the following California Department of Social Services representatives:

- CalWORKs Eligibility County Consultant (916) 654-1322
- CalFresh County Consultant (916) 645-1896
- Refugee Programs Bureau (916) 654-4356

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

TODD R. BLAND  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division

Attachment

## MBSAC Payment Standards

July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

### Region 1 FY 2014-15

| Assistance Unit Size        | MBSAC                          | Housing | Utilities | Food  | Clothing |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|----------|
| <b>FY 2014-15 CNI 2.17%</b> |                                |         |           |       |          |
| 1                           | \$604                          | 273     | 58        | 150   | 46       |
| 2                           | \$989                          | 364     | 65        | 320   | 89       |
| 3                           | \$1,226                        | 398     | 68        | 409   | 133      |
| 4                           | \$1,455                        | 418     | 72        | 507   | 176      |
| 5                           | \$1,661                        | 418     | 72        | 614   | 223      |
| 6                           | \$1,868                        | 418     | 72        | 710   | 267      |
| 7                           | \$2,053                        | 418     | 72        | 792   | 313      |
| 8                           | \$2,234                        | 418     | 72        | 865   | 349      |
| 9                           | \$2,423                        | 418     | 72        | 951   | 402      |
| 10                          | \$2,631                        | 418     | 72        | 1,027 | 440      |
| More than 10                | Add \$23 for each extra person |         |           |       |          |

### Region 2 FY 2014-15

| Assistance Unit Size        | MBSAC                          | Housing | Utilities | Food  | Clothing |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|----------|
| <b>FY 2014-15 CNI 2.17%</b> |                                |         |           |       |          |
| 1                           | \$572                          | 262     | 58        | 150   | 46       |
| 2                           | \$940                          | 346     | 65        | 320   | 89       |
| 3                           | \$1,164                        | 379     | 68        | 409   | 133      |
| 4                           | \$1,384                        | 398     | 72        | 507   | 176      |
| 5                           | \$1,581                        | 398     | 72        | 614   | 223      |
| 6                           | \$1,777                        | 398     | 72        | 710   | 267      |
| 7                           | \$1,948                        | 398     | 72        | 792   | 313      |
| 8                           | \$2,127                        | 398     | 72        | 865   | 349      |
| 9                           | \$2,298                        | 398     | 72        | 951   | 402      |
| 10                          | \$2,502                        | 398     | 72        | 1,027 | 440      |
| More than 10                | Add \$23 for each extra person |         |           |       |          |