



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

DECEMBER 20, 2013

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 13-104

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CalFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CaWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES
ALL QUALITY CONTROL COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 309 REGARDING HOMELESS YOUTH IN THE CALFRESH PROGRAM

REFERENCE: STEWART B. MCKINNEY HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT (PUBLIC LAW 100-77); AB 309, CHAPTER 97, STATUTES OF 2013; WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTIONS 18901 AND 18904.23; MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) 63-102, 63-402; AND, ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICES (ACIN) Nos. I-45-11 AND I-39-13

The purpose of this letter is to provide county welfare departments (CWDs) with information regarding the treatment of homeless youth in the CalFresh program as prescribed by Welfare & Institutions Code sections 18901 and 18904.25 (amended per AB 309, Chapter 97, Statutes of 2013).

CALFRESH ELIGIBILITY FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

Welfare & Institutions Code section 18901 clarifies that there are no minimum age requirements for CalFresh eligibility except for those imposed by federal law. Section 18904.25 requires CWDs, upon receipt of a CalFresh application from an unaccompanied child or youth, to determine the youth's eligibility, which shall include determining whether the youth is eligible to apply as the sole member of the household and screening the application for entitlement to expedited service. It also requires CWDs to provide written notice to a homeless youth if his or her CalFresh application is denied.

HOMELESS SHELTERS AND EXPEDITED SERVICE

Welfare & Institutions Code section 18904.25 requires the California Department of Social Services to develop information on homeless youth in addition to information it is already required to develop on targeting services to the greater homeless population.

The CWDs shall make available CalFresh information on expedited service targeted to the homeless population, including unaccompanied homeless youth. This information shall be made available to homeless shelters, emergency food programs, local educational agency liaisons for homeless youth, and other community agencies that provide services to homeless people.

TRAINING

The training that CWDs offer annually on CalFresh application procedures to homeless shelter operators shall be updated to include eligibility criteria and specific information regarding the eligibility of homeless youth.

The ACIN No. I-39-13 provided clarification on the treatment of homeless youth provided by the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). This ACIN can be found at the following web address:

http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/EntRes/getinfo/acin/2013/I-39_13.pdf

The FNS clarification of policy barriers facing homeless youth can be found at the following web address:

http://origin.www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/pdfs/Policy_Clarifications_Homeless_Youth_Issues.pdf

This ACIN and other CDSS Letters and Notices are available at the following web address:

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/default.htm>

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If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, please contact your CalFresh County Consultant or the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division