



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

May 27, 2016

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 16-47

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. 15-52

**MBSAC INCREASE**

The purpose of this ACL is to inform counties of an increase to the CaWORKs MBSAC levels effective July 1, 2016. The W&I Code Section 11453 requires CaWORKs MBSAC levels to be adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living. The Fiscal Year 2016-17 COLA increases the MBSAC and Income-In-Kind (IIK) levels by 2.76 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, 2016.

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 IIK 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, 2016, the CWD must take immediate steps to review and correct any

**REASON FOR THIS  
TRANSMITTAL**

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

applications denied on or after July 1, 2016, 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, 2016.

**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, 2016 to June 30, 2017

### Region 1 FY 2016-17

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
<b>FY 2016-17 CNI 2.76%</b>					
1	\$636	288	61	158	48
2	\$1,042	383	69	337	94
3	\$1,292	419	72	431	140
4	\$1,533	441	76	534	185
5	\$1,750	441	76	647	235
6	\$1,968	441	76	748	282
7	\$2,163	441	76	834	330
8	\$2,354	441	76	911	368
9	\$2,554	441	76	1,002	423
10	\$2,772	441	76	1,082	463
More than 10	Add \$25 for each extra person				

### Region 2 FY 2016-17

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
<b>FY 2016-17 CNI 2.76%</b>					
1	\$603	276	61	158	48
2	\$991	365	69	337	94
3	\$1,227	400	72	431	140
4	\$1,458	419	76	534	185
5	\$1,666	419	76	647	235
6	\$1,872	419	76	748	282
7	\$2,052	419	76	834	330
8	\$2,241	419	76	911	368
9	\$2,421	419	76	1,002	423
10	\$2,637	419	76	1,082	463
More than 10	Add \$25 for each extra person				