

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



September 10, 1998

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 98-68

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: INCREASES TO THE MAXIMUM AID PAYMENT (MAP) LEVELS
IN THE CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND
RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) PROGRAM

REFERENCES: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 96-60, ASSEMBLY BILL 2779
(CHAPTER 329, STATUTES OF 1998), WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS
CODE (WIC) SECTIONS 11450.018 & 11453

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of increases to the Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) levels in the CalWORKs program which are effective November 1, 1998. The increase in MAP is due to provisions in the law which call for restoration of the statewide 4.9 percent grant cuts and for providing an annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA). This year's COLA increases the MAP by 2.84 percent. The new CalWORKs Payments Standards tables for Region 1 and Region 2 are included in Attachments 1A and 1B.

CalWORKs and Food Stamp Mass Informing Notice

Attachments 2A and 2B provide you with the mass informing stuffers you should use to notify CalWORKs recipients of the new MAP levels. Attachment 2A is designed for residents of Region 1, and 2B for Region 2 residents. These stuffers provide information about the changes in cash aid standards and serve as advance notification to CalWORKs recipients. Both attachments also contain language to inform households that food stamps may be reduced due to the increase in cash aid. In addition, the stuffer includes the State's toll free number for public inquiries. Those calling the number will hear a taped message concerning the changes and hearing rights associated with law changes. The taped message will be provided in English and Spanish. The attached stuffers must be sent to current CalWORKs recipients so that they are received no later than November 1, 1998.

CalWORKs Notice of Action (NOA) Language

Attachment 3 provides a listing of applicable NOA language and instructions for use of the NOAs specified. Counties may, but are not legally required to, issue NOAs for increases in grants resulting solely from the law change.

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Entrant Cash Assistance (ECA)

Information regarding RCA and ECA will follow under separate cover.

Food Stamp Information

Adjustments in Food Stamp benefits resulting from cash aid changes are considered a mass change as provided in Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) 63-504.392. The mass informing stuffers provided in Attachments 2A and 2B contain the necessary information for advising Public Assistance Food Stamp households of benefit changes. An individual Notice of Change (DFA 377.4) is not required if the sole reason for the change in benefits is the MAP increase.

The following describes how to treat the CalWORKs MAP increase supplemental payment received by Food Stamp households:

For monthly reporting households subject to retrospective budgeting, if the County Welfare Department (CWD) sends a supplemental payment for the MAP increase in the month of November for the month of November, but did not have time to prospectively budget the supplemental payment, the CWD must retrospectively budget the November supplement in January 1999 [MPP 63-503.232(c)(5)(B)].

However, if the November supplement is not sent until December, it is considered a non-recurring lump sum payment for Food Stamp Program purposes and is counted as a resource in the month of December [MPP 63-502.2(j)]. This provision applies to retrospectively budgeted households as well as prospectively budgeted households.

Translations and Camera-Ready Copies

For camera-ready copies of English and Spanish forms, call Forms Management Unit (FMU) at (916) 657-1907 or CALNET at 437-1907. If your office has Internet access, you may obtain various forms and Notice of Form Change (GEN 127) from the CDSS web page at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov>. To accommodate agencies without Internet access, copies will be available by contacting FMU.