January 5, 2016

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-02-16

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
    ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
    ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
    ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS
    ALL COUNTY CHIEF WELFARE FRAUD INVESTIGATORS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs): FINAL REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 1468

REFERENCES: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 14-100; AB 1468 (CHAPTER 26, STATUTES OF 2014).

The purpose of this letter is to transmit the final regulations removing the ban on CalWORKs eligibility for individuals with a prior drug felony conviction due to the enactment of AB 1468. This policy change was initially implemented through ACL 14-100, dated December 19, 2014, and became effective on April 1, 2015.

The attached final regulations were approved by the Office of Administrative Law and certified by the California Secretary of State on November 30, 2015, and are effective January 1, 2016. These regulation pages and the accompanying Eligibility and Assistance Standards Manual Letter 15-03 are posted on the internet at: http://www.cdss.ca.gov/ord/PG3715.htm.

AMENDED CALWORKS REGULATIONS

Changes to the CalWORKs regulations resulting from AB 1468 include the following:

- Removes all references to individuals with a prior drug felony conviction as excluded members of the CalWORKs assistance unit (AU).
Removes the incidence of a drug felony conviction from the list of mandatory mid-period reports.
Removes references to AUs that include an individual with a prior drug felony conviction as a reason to mandate that aid payments are given in the form of vendor vouchers.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your CalWORKs county consultant directly or call the CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau at (916) 654-1322.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

KÄREN DICKERSON, Chief
CalWORKs Employment and Eligibility Branch

Attachment
Amend Section 40-034 to read:

### 40-034 IMPLEMENTATION OF CALWORKS DRUG AND FLEEING FELON PROVISIONS

| .1 General | (Continued) |
| .2 Effective Date | (Continued) |
| .3 Sections Repealed | (Continued) |
| .4 Sections Adopted | (Continued) |
| .5 Sections Amended | (Continued) |

| .6 Repeal Date | The regulatory provisions excluding persons with a prior drug felony conviction from eligibility for CalWORKs are repealed effective April 1, 2015. |

Authority cited: Sections 10553 and 10554, Welfare and Institutions Code.

Reference: Sections 11251.3 and 11486.5, Welfare and Institutions Code; **AB 1542** (Ch. 270, Stats. of 1997) and **AB 1468** (Chapter 26, Statutes of 2014).
Amend Section 44-211 to read:

44-211 SPECIAL NEEDS IN CALWORKS

.1 (Continued)

.5 Homeless Assistance

.51 (Continued)

.53 Permanent Housing (Continued)

.531 (Continued)

.534 Definitions

(a) (Continued)

(b) "Total Monthly Household Income" means income that can be used to determine eligibility for Permanent HA. Counties must count the income of the AU members and of any other persons whose income is currently used in calculating the AU’s grant, including but not limited to sanctioned and penalized household members and persons who are excluded by law due to their undocumented non-citizen or drug/fleeing felon status. (Continued)

.535 (Continued)

.6 (Continued)

Authority cited: Sections 10553, 10554, 10604, 11209, and 11450(f) and (g), Welfare and Institutions Code.

Amend Section 44-303 to read:

44-303 AID PAYMENTS - DEFINED

Aid payments are:

.1 (Continued)

.3 Vendor payments, i.e., payments made directly to a person or agency supplying goods or services to the recipient or family. Vendor payments are applicable:

.31 (Continued)

.33 In CalWORKs cases in which a member of the AU becomes ineligible for aid due to a felony conviction related to the use or distribution of a controlled substance (see Section 44-307.11); and

.33.34 In CalWORKs cases in which a parent or caretaker relative is in sanction status for at least three consecutive months (see Section 44-307.12). A county shall establish when to begin to issue vouchers or vendor payments or at least rent and utilities after this three-month period in sanction status. This timeframe shall be included in a county’s written policies and procedures.

Authority cited: Sections 10553 and 10554, Welfare and Institutions Code.

Amend Section 44-307 to read:

44-307    VOUCHER/VENDOR PAYMENTS

.1 Voucher/Vendor Payments A county shall issue vouchers or vendor payments for at least rent and utilities payments in the following instances:

.11 Felony Conviction A member of the AU becomes ineligible for aid due to a felony conviction after December 31, 1997, related to the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance, or

.12 Sanction Any time a parent or caretaker relative is in sanction status for at least three consecutive months. A county shall establish when to begin to issue vouchers or vendor payments for at least rent and utilities after this three-month period in sanction status. This timeframe shall be included in a county’s written policies and procedures. The vouchers or vendor payments shall continue until the parent or caretaker relative is no longer subject to sanction.

.2 Grant not Sufficient (Continued)

.5 Optional Voucher/Vendor Payments (Continued)

.51 Other Need Items When vouchers or vendor payments are issued pursuant to Section 44-307.11 or 12, counties have the option to issue additional vouchers or vendor payments for other need items if they deem it in the best interest of the recipient child(ren), or

.52 Over Time Limit (Continued)

Authority cited: Sections 10553 and 10554, Welfare and Institutions Code.

Reference: Sections 11251.3, 11320.15, 11327.5(d), 11450.13, 11453.2, 11454, 11454.2, and 17012.5, Welfare and Institutions Code; and Section 1942, Civil Code.
Amend Section 44-316 to read:

44-316 REPORTING CHANGES AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT DETERMINATIONS AND COUNTY ACTIONS

.1 Reserved

.2 (Continued)

(SAR) .3 Mid-Period Actions (Continued)

(SAR) .31 (Continued)

(SAR) .32 Recipient Mid-Period Mandatory Reports (Continued)

(AR/CO) .32 Recipient Mid-Period Mandatory Reports (Continued)

.321 The following occurrences shall be reported by the recipient to the county:

(a) Drug felony convictions Reserved

(b) (Continued)

(AR/CO) .322 The county shall discontinue cash aid to the recipient at the end of the month in which timely and adequate notice can be provided when changes specified in Sections 44-316.321(a), (b), and (c) are reported.

.323 (Continued)

.324 (Continued)

Authority cited: Sections 10553, 10554, and 11369, Welfare and Institutions Code.

Amend Section 82-832 to read:

82-832 EXCLUDED PERSONS

.1 Person Who Is (Continued)

(a) (Continued)

(j) Convicted Drug Felon (Continued)

Has been convicted in a state or federal court of a felony that has as an element, the possession, use or distribution of a controlled substance. The conviction must be after December 31, 1997. Controlled substance is defined in Section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. Section 802(6)) or Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code. The term ‘convicted’ also includes a plea of guilty or nolo contendere. Reserved

(k) (Continued)

Authority cited: Sections 10553, 10554, 10604, 11270, and 11369, Welfare and Institutions Code.

Reference: 8 CFR 213a. and 299; 45 CFR 205.42(d)(2)(v)(A) and (B), as printed in Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 198, Tuesday, October 13, 1992, page 46808, 45 CFR 205.52, 45 CFR 206.10(a)(5)(i), 45 CFR 232.12(d), 45 CFR 233.10(a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(i)(B), and (a)(3), 45 CFR 233.20(a)(1)(i), (a)(3)(ii)(C) and (F), and (a)(3)(ix), 45 CFR 233.50, 45 CFR 233.51, 45 CFR 233.90(c), (c)(1), and (c)(2)(iv), 45 CFR 233.100(a)(5)(ii), 45 CFR 233.106, 45 CFR 240.22, and 45 CFR 250.34(a) and (c), and (c)(2); and Sections 11008.13, 11104, 11157, 11201(b), 11203, 11251.3, 11253.3, 11263.5, 11265.1, 11265.2, 11265.3, 11268, 11270, 11315, 11320.6(e), 11327.5(c), 11406.5, 11450, 11450.5, 11454, 11454.5, 11477, 11477.02, 11486, and 11486.5, Welfare and Institutions Code; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, Section 115; Federal Register, Vol. 75, No. 19, dated January 29, 2010, pages 4928 and 4929 [7 CFR 273.12(a)(1)(vii)].