



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

June 2, 2017

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 17-44

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 (CalWORKs): 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. [16-47](#)

MBSAC INCREASE

The purpose of this ACL is to inform counties of an increase to the CalWORKs MBSAC levels effective July 1, 2017. The W&I Code Section 11453 requires CalWORKs MBSAC levels to be adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living. The Fiscal Year 2017-18 COLA increases the MBSAC and Income-In-Kind (IIK) levels by 3.84 percent. The new MBSAC levels are to be used in determining applicant financial eligibility for those families that apply for CalWORKs on or after July 1, 2017.

The new CalWORKs 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.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

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, 2017, the CWD must take immediate steps to review and correct any applications denied on or after July 1, 2017, 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, 2017.

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

c: CWDA

MBSAC Payment Standards

July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

Region 1 FY 2017-18

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
FY 2017-18 CNI 3.84%					
1	\$660	299	63	164	50
2	\$1,082	398	72	350	98
3	\$1,342	435	75	448	145
4	\$1,592	458	79	555	192
5	\$1,817	458	79	672	244
6	\$2,044	458	79	777	293
7	\$2,246	458	79	866	343
8	\$2,444	458	79	946	382
9	\$2,652	458	79	1,040	439
10	\$2,878	458	79	1,124	481
More than 10	Add \$26 for each extra person				

Region 2 FY 2017-18

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
FY 2017-18 CNI 3.84%					
1	\$626	287	63	164	50
2	\$1,029	379	72	350	98
3	\$1,274	415	75	448	145
4	\$1,514	435	79	555	192
5	\$1,730	435	79	672	244
6	\$1,944	435	79	777	293
7	\$2,131	435	79	866	343
8	\$2,327	435	79	946	382
9	\$2,514	435	79	1,040	439
10	\$2,738	435	79	1,124	481
More than 10	Add \$26 for each extra person				