

June 6, 2018

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 18-66

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES

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. [17-44](#)

### **MBSAC INCREASE**

The purpose of this ACL is to inform counties of an increase to the CalWORKs Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC) levels effective July 1, 2018. 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 2018-19 COLA increases the MBSAC and Income-In-Kind (IIK) levels by 3.96 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, 2018.

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.

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, 2018, the CWD must take immediate steps to review and correct any applications denied on or after July 1, 2018, 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, 2018.

**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) 651-8047
- Refugee Programs Bureau (916) 654-4356

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

TODD R. BLAND  
Deputy Director  
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

Attachment

c: CWDA

## MBSAC Payment Standards

July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

### Region 1 FY 2018-19

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
FY 2018-19 CNI 3.96%					
1	\$686	311	65	170	52
2	\$1,125	414	75	364	102
3	\$1,395	452	78	466	151
4	\$1,655	476	82	577	200
5	\$1,889	476	82	699	254
6	\$2,125	476	82	808	305
7	\$2,335	476	82	900	357
8	\$2,541	476	82	983	397
9	\$2,757	476	82	1,081	456
10	\$2,992	476	82	1,169	500
More than 10	Add \$27 for each extra person				

### Region 2 FY 2018-19

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
FY 2018-19 CNI 3.96%					
1	\$651	298	65	170	52
2	\$1,070	394	75	364	102
3	\$1,324	431	78	466	151
4	\$1,574	452	82	577	200
5	\$1,799	452	82	699	254
6	\$2,021	452	82	808	305
7	\$2,215	452	82	900	357
8	\$2,419	452	82	983	397
9	\$2,614	452	82	1,081	456
10	\$2,846	452	82	1,169	500
More than 10	Add \$27 for each extra person				