

February 21, 2019

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 19-13

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide direction to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) regarding the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 2030 (Chapter 485, Statutes of 2018), which requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to include, in any amended or revised initial application and semiannual report form adopted on or after January 1, 2019, questions that enable applicants and recipients to disclose a disability, the need for accommodation due to disability, or any experience of domestic violence, and requires California's automated welfare system to include a related notification that is immediately visible upon opening the case file.



PAT LEARY
ACTING DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

February 21, 2019

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 19-13

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES
ALL COUNTY CIVIL RIGHTS COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO
KIDS (CalWORKs) AND CALFRESH IMPLEMENTATION OF
ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 2030 (CHAPTER 485, STATUTES OF 2018).

REFERENCE: [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 2030](#) (CHAPTER 485, STATUTES OF 2018);
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) SECTIONS 10824.5,](#)
[11051, 11262, AND 11495; MANUAL OF POLICIES AND](#)
[PROCEDURES \(MPP\) SECTIONS 42-712, 42-713, 42-715; U.S.](#)
[CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS \(CFR\) TITLE 42 SECTION](#)
[602\(a\)\(7\); TITLE II, SUBTITLE A, OF THE AMERICANS WITH](#)
[DISABILITIES ACT \(ADA\); ACL NO. 14-59; SEMIANNUAL](#)
[REPORTING FORM AND THE INITIAL APPLICATION FOR CASH](#)
[AID, CALFRESH AND MEDI-CAL/HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS](#)

The purpose of this ACL is to provide direction to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) regarding the implementation of [AB 2030](#) (Chapter 485, Statutes of 2018), which requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to include, in any amendments or revisions to the standard initial application and semiannual report form adopted on or after January 1, 2019, questions that enable applicants and recipients to disclose disabilities, any need for accommodations due to disabilities, and any experiences of domestic violence/abuse ([WIC Sections 11051 and 11262](#)). Additionally, [AB 2030](#) requires any single state automated welfare system to include a notification to the caseworker that an applicant or recipient has disclosed a disability or experience of domestic violence, or has indicated a need for an accommodation due to disability. This notification must be immediately visible to the caseworker upon opening the applicant's or recipient's file in the system ([WIC Section 10824.5](#)).

BACKGROUND

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) applies to State and local government entities, and subtitle A protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability in services, programs and activities provided by State and local government entities ([42 U.S.C. Sections 12131 and 12132](#)). The ADA also requires State and local governments to provide reasonable accommodations to allow disabled persons full and equal opportunity to participate in State and local government programs.

Pursuant to [42 U.S. Code Section 602\(a\)\(7\)](#), states are permitted to adopt standards and procedures to assess and identify individuals and families with a history of domestic abuse to ensure they are referred to various counseling and supportive services, and are screened for exceptions and/or exemptions to program requirements they may be eligible for, specifically in cases where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult to escape domestic violence.

Additionally, in accordance with [MPP Section 42-715.12](#), CWDs are required to provide opportunities for CalWORKs applicants and recipients to confidentially disclose experiences of domestic violence/abuse and [MPP Section 42-715.13](#) requires CWDs to provide information and resource materials during the application process, the welfare-to-work appraisal process and the redetermination process.

For further guidance and clarification regarding current protocols, regulations and allowable program exemptions and/or exceptions for victims of domestic violence/abuse, please refer to [ACL 14-59](#). An ACL providing further guidance and information regarding CWDs' responsibilities in providing reasonable accommodations to applicants and recipients with disabilities is forthcoming.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 2030

Forms Revision

The CDSS currently provides opportunities for CalWORKs and CalFresh applicants and recipients to disclose disabilities and experiences of domestic abuse during the application, semiannual reporting and annual reporting processes. As now required by [WIC Sections 11051 and 11262](#), once revised, the initial application and semiannual report forms will capture the need for reasonable accommodations as [AB 2030](#) mandates reasonable accommodation questions be included in all revisions to the standard application form and the semiannual report form adopted on or after January 1, 2019.

Automation System Requirements

The CDSS has identified that existing automation capabilities vary within the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS):

- CalWIN has an icon for disability accommodations that is displayed on the upper-right side of the "Display Individual Demographics Summary" window—clicking the icon will open the "Collect Special Characteristic Detail" window, revealing the accommodations.

- CalACES North has the capability for flagging cases with an indicator type that county users can select (e.g., special accommodations, special circumstances, suspected fraud, etc.).
- CalACES South allows any county user with access to flag a case to alert the first point of contact—special flags are identified by a banner at the top of every page alerting the worker that there is a special indicator.

Under existing law, the CDSS, the Office of Systems Integration (OSI) and the SAWS consortia are collaborating with CWDs, advocates and other stakeholders in the development of the single statewide automated welfare system (CalSAWS), which is to be implemented by December 31, 2023.

Pursuant to [AB 2030](#), [Section 10824.5](#) mandates that, at the time of the rollout, CalSAWS will include a notification to be immediately visible upon initiating an applicant's or recipient's case file, alerting the county worker when individuals within the assistance unit have requested an accommodation due to a disability, consistent with the ADA, or when a client discloses experiences of domestic violence/abuse.

As the consortia migration progresses and upon implementation of CalSAWS, the CDSS will work with CWDs to make the necessary changes [AB 2030](#) mandates, including ensuring that notifications are immediately visible upon initiating the case file in the automated system.

CONTACTS

If you have any questions regarding this ACL, please contact the CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau at (916) 654-1322, or the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

KIM JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division