

May 15, 2019

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 19-47

This letter informs counties of an increase to the CalWORKs Minimum Basic Standards of Adequate Care (MBSAC) levels effective July 1, 2019. Statute requires CalWORKs MBSAC levels to be adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living. The Fiscal Year 2019-20 COLA increases the MBSAC and Income-In-Kind (IIC) levels by 4.15 percent. The new MBSAC levels are used in determining applicant financial eligibility for those families that apply for CalWORKs on or after July 1, 2019.



PAT LEARY
ACTING DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

May 15, 2019

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 19-47

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 STANDARDS OF
ADEQUATE CARE (MBSAC) LEVELS

REFERENCE: [WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) SECTIONS 11450,](#)
[WIC 11452, AND WIC 11453; ACL No. 18-66](#)

MBSAC INCREASE

The purpose of this ACL is to inform counties of an increase to the CalWORKs MBSAC levels effective July 1, 2019. The WIC Section 11453 requires CalWORKs MBSAC levels to be adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living. The Fiscal Year 2019-20 COLA increases the MBSAC and Income-In-Kind (IIC) levels by 4.15 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, 2019.

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 IIC 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, 2019, the CWD must take immediate steps to review and correct any applications denied on or after July 1, 2019, 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, 2019.

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:

KIM JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

Attachment

c: CWDA

MBSAC Payment Standards
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Region 1 FY 2019-20 CNI 4.15%

| Assistance Unit Size | MBSAC | Housing | Utilities | Food | Clothing |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|----------|
| 1 | \$714 | 324 | 68 | 177 | 54 |
| 2 | \$1,172 | 431 | 78 | 379 | 106 |
| 3 | \$1,453 | 471 | 81 | 485 | 157 |
| 4 | \$1,724 | 496 | 85 | 601 | 208 |
| 5 | \$1,967 | 496 | 85 | 728 | 265 |
| 6 | \$2,213 | 496 | 85 | 842 | 318 |
| 7 | \$2,432 | 496 | 85 | 937 | 372 |
| 8 | \$2,646 | 496 | 85 | 1,024 | 413 |
| 9 | \$2,871 | 496 | 85 | 1,126 | 475 |
| 10 | \$3,116 | 496 | 85 | 1,218 | 521 |
| More than 10 | Add \$28 for each extra person | | | | |

Region 2 FY 2019-20 CNI 4.15%

| Assistance Unit Size | MBSAC | Housing | Utilities | Food | Clothing |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|----------|
| 1 | \$678 | 310 | 68 | 177 | 54 |
| 2 | \$1,114 | 410 | 78 | 379 | 106 |
| 3 | \$1,379 | 449 | 81 | 485 | 157 |
| 4 | \$1,639 | 471 | 85 | 601 | 208 |
| 5 | \$1,874 | 471 | 85 | 728 | 265 |
| 6 | \$2,105 | 471 | 85 | 842 | 318 |
| 7 | \$2,307 | 471 | 85 | 937 | 372 |
| 8 | \$2,519 | 471 | 85 | 1,024 | 413 |
| 9 | \$2,722 | 471 | 85 | 1,126 | 475 |
| 10 | \$2,964 | 471 | 85 | 1,218 | 521 |
| More than 10 | Add \$28 for each extra person | | | | |