

May 29, 2020

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 20-60

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform counties of an increase to the CalWORKs Minimum Basic Standards of Adequate Care (MBSAC) levels effective July 1, 2020.



KIM JOHNSON
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 29, 2020

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 20-60

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; ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 19-47](#)

MBSAC INCREASE

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform counties of an increase to the CalWORKs MBSAC levels effective July 1, 2020. 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 2020-21 COLA increases the MBSAC and Income-In-Kind (IIK) levels by 3.72 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, 2020.

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, 2020, the CWD must take immediate steps to review and correct any applications denied on or after July 1, 2020, 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, 2020.

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:

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

Attachment

c: CWDA

MBSAC Payment Standards
July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Region 1 FY 2020-21 CNI 3.72%

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
1	\$741	336	71	184	56
2	\$1,216	447	81	393	110
3	\$1,507	489	84	503	163
4	\$1,788	514	88	623	216
5	\$2,040	514	88	755	275
6	\$2,295	514	88	873	330
7	\$2,522	514	88	972	386
8	\$2,744	514	88	1,062	428
9	\$2,978	514	88	1,168	493
10	\$3,232	514	88	1,263	540
More than 10	Add \$29 for each extra person				

Region 2 FY 2020-21 CNI 3.72%

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
1	\$703	322	71	184	56
2	\$1,155	425	81	393	110
3	\$1,430	466	84	503	163
4	\$1,700	489	88	623	216
5	\$1,944	489	88	755	275
6	\$2,183	489	88	873	330
7	\$2,393	489	88	972	386
8	\$2,613	489	88	1,062	428
9	\$2,823	489	88	1,168	493
10	\$3,074	489	88	1,263	540
More than 10	Add \$29 for each extra person				