

May 25, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-55

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) and Income In Kind (IIK) levels effective July 1, 2021.



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 25, 2021

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 21-55

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) AND INCOME IN KIND (IIK) LEVELS

REFERENCE: [WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) SECTIONS 11450,
WIC 11452, AND WIC 11453; ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 20-60](#)

MBSAC INCREASE

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform counties of an increase to the CalWORKs MBSAC and IIK levels effective July 1, 2021. 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 2021-22 COLA increases the MBSAC and IIK levels by 2.11 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, 2021.

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, 2021, the CWD must take immediate steps to review and correct any applications denied on or after July 1, 2021, 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, 2021.

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, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Region 1 FY 2021-22 CNI 2.11%

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
1	\$757	343	72	188	57
2	\$1,242	456	83	401	112
3	\$1,539	499	86	514	166
4	\$1,826	525	90	636	221
5	\$2,083	525	90	771	281
6	\$2,343	525	90	891	337
7	\$2,575	525	90	993	394
8	\$2,802	525	90	1,084	437
9	\$3,041	525	90	1,193	503
10	\$3,300	525	90	1,290	551
More than 10	Add \$30 for each extra person				

Region 2 FY 2021-22 CNI 2.11%

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
1	\$718	329	72	188	57
2	\$1,179	434	83	401	112
3	\$1,460	476	86	514	166
4	\$1,736	499	90	636	221
5	\$1,985	499	90	771	281
6	\$2,229	499	90	891	337
7	\$2,443	499	90	993	394
8	\$2,668	499	90	1,084	437
9	\$2,883	499	90	1,193	503
10	\$3,139	499	90	1,290	551
More than 10	Add \$30 for each extra person				