

May 26, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-48**

The purpose of this All County Letter is to inform counties of an increase to the Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care and Income In-Kind levels effective July 1, 2023, for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids, Refugee Cash Assistance, Entrant Cash Assistance, and the Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program.



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • [www.cdss.ca.gov](http://www.cdss.ca.gov)



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

May 26, 2023

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-48

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, REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE, ENTRANT CASH  
ASSISTANCE, AND THE TRAFFICKING AND CRIMES VICTIM  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT  
INCREASE TO THE MINIMUM BASIC STANDARD OF  
ADEQUATE CARE AND INCOME IN-KIND LEVELS

REFERENCE: [WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTIONS 11450, 11452,](#)  
[AND 11453; MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES](#)  
[SECTIONS 69-201.4, 69-301, AND 70-105; ALL COUNTY](#)  
[LETTER NO. 22-39](#)

### **MINIMUM BASIC STANDARD OF ADEQUATE CARE (MBSAC) INCREASE**

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of an increase to the MBSAC and Income In-Kind (IIK) levels effective July 1, 2023, for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Entrant Cash Assistance (ECA), and the Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP). The [Welfare and Institutions Code \(W&IC\) Section 11453](#) requires CalWORKs MBSAC levels to be adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living. The Fiscal Year 2023-24 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increases the MBSAC and IIK levels by 6.85 percent. The new MBSAC levels are to be used in determining applicant financial eligibility for families that apply for CalWORKs on or after July 1, 2023.

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 the Statewide Automated Welfare System is unable to implement the new MBSAC level for applicants by July 1, 2023, the CWD must take immediate steps to review and correct any applications denied on or after July 1, 2023, 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, ENTRANT CASH ASSISTANCE, AND TRAFFICKING AND CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

In accordance with the [Manual of Policies and Procedures \(MPP\) Sections 69-201.4](#) (RCA), [69-301](#) (ECA), and [70-105](#) (TCVAP), CalWORKs income and resource rules, including the MBSAC COLA and IIK changes, will be applied to RCA, ECA, and TCVAP eligibility and benefit determinations.

#### **CONTACTS**

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this ACL, please contact the following California Department of Social Services representatives:

For CalWORKs, contact the Early Engagement and Eligibility Bureau at [CWEligibilityPolicy@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CWEligibilityPolicy@dss.ca.gov).

For RCA, ECA, or TCVAP, contact the Refugee Programs Bureau at [RefugeePolicy@dss.ca.gov](mailto:RefugeePolicy@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By***

JULIANNA VIGNALATS  
Acting Deputy Director  
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

Attachment

## ATTACHMENT A

### MBSAC Payment Standards July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

#### Region 1 Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 California Necessities Index (CNI) 6.85%

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
1	\$862	391	82	214	65
2	\$1,415	519	95	457	127
3	\$1,753	568	98	586	189
4	\$2,080	598	103	724	252
5	\$2,373	598	103	878	321
6	\$2,670	598	103	1,015	384
7	\$2,934	598	103	1,132	449
8	\$3,193	598	103	1,235	498
9	\$3,464	598	103	1,359	573
10	\$3,760	598	103	1,470	628
More than 10	Add \$34 for each extra person				

#### Region 2 FY 2023-2024 CNI 6.85%

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
1	\$818	375	82	214	65
2	\$1,343	495	95	457	127
3	\$1,664	542	98	586	189
4	\$1,978	568	103	724	252
5	\$2,262	568	103	878	321
6	\$2,540	568	103	1,015	384
7	\$2,783	568	103	1,132	449
8	\$3,040	568	103	1,235	498
9	\$3,285	568	103	1,359	573
10	\$3,576	568	103	1,470	628
More than 10	Add \$34 for each extra person				