

November 6, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-90**

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties participating in the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Home Visiting Program (HVP) that Assembly Bill (AB) 120 (Chapter 43, Statutes of 2023) removed the CalWORKs HVP eligibility criteria that allowed a pregnant CalWORKs applicant to receive HVP if they would have been eligible for aid other than not having reached the second trimester of pregnancy in response to AB 135 (Chapter 85, Statutes of 2021) which expanded CalWORKs eligibility to pregnant person only (PPO) applicants.



**KIM JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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**GAVIN NEWSOM**  
GOVERNOR

November 6, 2023

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-90

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE TO WORK COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO  
KIDS (CALWORKS) HOME VISITING PROGRAM (HVP)  
CHANGES DUE TO ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 120

REFERENCE: [WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) 11330.6](#)  
[ASSEMBLY BILL 120, CHAPTER 43, STATUTES OF 2023](#)  
[ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) NO. 21-140, ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\)  
135, CHAPTER 85, STATUTES OF 2021](#)

The purpose of this ACL is to inform counties participating in CalWORKs HVP of a change to program eligibility criteria resulting from the passage of AB 120 (Chapter 43, Statutes of 2023). AB 120 removes the CalWORKs HVP eligibility criterion that allowed a pregnant CalWORKs applicant to receive CalWORKs HVP only if they would have been eligible for aid other than not having reached the second trimester of pregnancy. This HVP eligibility criterion is no longer necessary because of changes to CalWORKs eligibility for Pregnant-Person Only (PPO) applicants implemented in response to AB 135 (Chapter 85, Statutes of 2021).

## **BACKGROUND**

CalWORKs HVP is a voluntary program administered by participating counties throughout California to support positive health, development and well-being outcomes for pregnant and parenting individuals, families, and infants born into poverty. By helping families achieve stability while participating in CalWORKs HVP, the program aims to lay the foundation for other long-term goals such as future educational opportunities, economic progress, and greater financial opportunities. This two-generational approach to service delivery improves family engagement practices,

supports healthy development of young children living in poverty, and prepares parents for robust engagement in Welfare-to-Work activities and employment.

Prior to passage of AB 135, a pregnant adult aged 19 or older with no other eligible children in the home was not eligible for CalWORKs aid until the second trimester of pregnancy. To ensure pregnant persons would be able to access CalWORKs HVP services as soon as possible, the CalWORKs HVP eligibility criteria included a provision that pregnant individuals who had applied for CalWORKs within 60 calendar days before reaching the second trimester of pregnancy, and were otherwise eligible for CalWORKs aid, were eligible for CalWORKs HVP.

Effective July 1, 2022, AB 135 expanded eligibility for CalWORKs aid for pregnant person only (PPO) applicants. Pregnant adults aged 19 or older, with no other eligible children in the home, are eligible at any stage during their pregnancy and are no longer required to wait until their second trimester to be eligible for CalWORKs. Please refer to [ACL No. 21-140](#) for more information on AB 135 as it relates to cash aid for PPO applicants.

#### **CHANGE TO CALWORKS HVP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Effective July 10, 2023, AB 120 removes the now unnecessary CalWORKs HVP eligibility criteria at [WIC 11330.6\(c\)\(2\)\(iii\)](#) that allowed a pregnant CalWORKs applicant to receive CalWORKs HVP only if they would have been eligible for aid other than not having reached the second trimester of pregnancy.

Based on implementation of AB 120, an individual must meet both of the following criteria to be eligible for CalWORKs HVP:

- (I) The individual is pregnant, or the individual is a parent or caretaker relative of a child less than 24 months of age at the time the individual enrolls in the program; and
- (II) The individual is:
  - (i) A member of the CalWORKs assistance unit; or
  - (ii) The parent or caretaker relative of a child-only case; or
  - (iii) An individual who is apparently eligible for CalWORKs aid.

A county CalWORKs HVP may serve additional individuals not described in (I) with CDSS approval.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the CalWORKs Home Visiting Unit by emailing [CalWORKsHVP@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CalWORKsHVP@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By***

ALEXIS FERNÁNDEZ GARCIA  
Deputy Director  
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division