

April 25, 2024

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 24-29

The purpose of this All County Letter is to announce the new California Lottery Winnings Recipient Income and Eligibility Verification System match and provide County Welfare Departments guidance on the match process.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

April 25, 2024

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 24-29

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL COUNTY INCOME AND ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION
SYSTEM COORDINATORS
ALL WELFARE INTERCEPT COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA STATE LOTTERY WINNINGS RECIPIENT INCOME
AND ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM MATCH

REFERENCE: [TITLE 7 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS \(CFR\) SECTION 273.8\(b\)](#), [7 CFR SECTION 273.9](#), [7 CFR SECTION 273.12\(A\)\(1\)\(VIII\)](#), [7 CFR SECTION 273.2\(f\)](#), [7 CFR SECTION 273.11\(r\)](#); [MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES \(MPP\) SECTION 20-006.11](#), [MPP SECTION 20-006.543\(b\)\(1\)](#), AND [MPP SECTION 42-207.1](#); [ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) 17-41](#) AND [ACL 20-132](#)

This All County Letter (ACL) announces the new California (CA) Lottery Winnings Recipient Income and Eligibility Verification System (R-IEVS) match and provides County Welfare Departments (CWDs) guidance on the match process.

BACKGROUND

The R-IEVS is a federally-mandated system for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and also applies to the CA Food Assistance Program ([MPP Section 20-006.11](#)). The R-IEVS provides county staff with information from external data sources to assist in the determination of recipients' continuing eligibility. The R-IEVS is a series of manual and automated matches that CWDs process throughout the year to verify information reported by California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) and/or CalFresh recipients.

Upon receipt of an R-IEVS match, CWDs are required to review and compare the R-IEVS information against information in the case record to determine whether it affects eligibility or benefit level.

Per [7 CFR Section 273.11\(r\)](#) and [ACL 20-132](#), an ongoing household is required to report receiving substantial lottery and gambling winnings during the certification period and must report it within ten calendar days of receiving the winnings. Substantial lottery or gambling winnings are defined as a cash prize won in a single game, purchase of a ticket, hand or similar bet, which is equal to or greater than the maximum allowable financial resource limit for elderly or disabled households as defined at [7 CFR Section 273.8\(b\)](#).

MATCH PROCESSING REQUIREMENTS

CALIFORNIA LOTTERY RECIPIENT IEVS MATCH DATA

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has entered an interagency agreement with the CA Lottery to provide monthly reports of individuals who have received over the maximum allowable financial resource limit for elderly or disabled households as defined at [7 CFR Section 273.8\(b\)](#). The winnings threshold is based on the maximum allowable financial resource limit detailed in [7 CFR Section 273.8](#) and [7 CFR Section 273.9](#) and may be adjusted annually per [7 CFR Section 273.8\(b\)](#).

The CDSS will cross reference the CA Lottery's monthly report with the Monthly Medi-Cal Eligibility File of CalFresh recipients to create the CA Lottery R-IEVS Match. This monthly match will contain information related to the winners' personal identifiable information, benefit case information, and amount of winnings.

The sole purpose of this match is to verify the eligibility of CalFresh recipients in accordance with [7 CFR Section 273.2\(f\)](#) and the requirements outlined in [ACL 20-132](#). The CWDs must also fully understand and abide by all confidentiality requirements and all CDSS information security and privacy policies ([MPP Section 19-002.1](#)).

The CA Lottery R-IEVS match is expected to be provided to CWDs beginning June 2024.

LOTTERY MATCH RETRIEVAL

The CA Lottery R-IEVS Match will be provided to CWDs through their IEVS Secure Automated File Exchange (SAFE) account for retrieval. The match will be available for 30 days through the SAFE server and must be downloaded monthly. If the CWD has an existing IEVS SAFE account, there is no further action required unless new user access is requested.

The CWDs are required to appoint an Administrator for their SAFE Account. The CWDs are strongly encouraged to select a supervisor that has experience and knowledge of their county's current SAFE account as their SAFE Administrator. However, the CWD may choose to allow non-supervisory staff to take this role, provided the CWD and the assigned administrator are aware of the role's capacities. The Administrator's role is to receive match delivery notifications, determine who will have access to the SAFE, and submit [GEN 1395](#) requests to add or delete users.

Please note, the CWDs are responsible for working with their county Information Technology staff to ensure hardware is updated and able to access the system.

VERIFICATION

To identify potential discrepancies, the CWDs must review the case information to determine if the household has reported the lottery winnings. Per the Food and Nutrition Service direction, case narration is acceptable as verification for a report of substantial winnings. As a reminder, the CWDs must process the match according to the IEVS guidelines outlined in [ACL 17-41](#).

If the winnings received on the match have not been reported, a recipient verification letter ([GEN 201-R](#)) must be sent within 45 days to provide the recipient the first opportunity to verify the winnings. If the recipient fails or refuses to respond with sufficient information to clear the IEVS discrepancy or the dollar amount of the winnings is above the maximum allowed, the CWD must discontinue the entire household based on receipt of the winnings pursuant to [7 CFR Section 273.11\(r\)](#). At the time of discontinuance, the CWD must send timely and adequate notice in accordance with [MPP Section 20-006.543\(b\)\(1\)](#). All members of a household must lose eligibility when the CWD has verified a household member has received substantial lottery or gambling winnings. When case action is taken, the case must be reviewed for potential overissuance.

Per [ACL 20-132](#), a household that is discontinued as a result of this rule ([7 CFR Section 273.11\(r\)](#)) may re-apply for CalFresh at any time. When such a household reapplies, eligibility rules at [7 CFR Section 273.10](#) must be used to determine the household's eligibility and the household must not be considered categorically eligible or modified categorically eligible.

The CWDs must follow relevant program rules for households also receiving CalWORKs benefits. An applicant or recipient Assistance Unit (AU) may retain countable resources not excluded elsewhere by regulations, not to exceed the current CalWORKs resource limit. If the limit is exceeded, the family or child is ineligible ([MPP Section 42-207.1](#)). The resource limit figures are subject to a cost of living increase on January 1 of each year. These updates to the resource limits are published by the CDSS through an annual ACL. If the AU exceeds the current resource limit, the CWDs must take action according to the CalWORKs program rules.

COPIES AND TRANSLATIONS

Forms referenced in this letter are available on the [CDSS Forms/Brochures](#) webpage. When CDSS completes all translations of a form, they are posted on the [Translated Forms and Publications](#) webpage. When made available by CDSS, forms translated into an individual's preferred language must be provided to the individual pursuant to [MPP Section 21-115.2](#). For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651-8876. If translations are not available, recipients who have elected to receive materials in languages other than English should be sent the English version of the form or notice along with the [GEN 1365-Notice of Language Services](#) and a local contact number.

Per [Government Code Section 7290, et seq.](#), the CWDs must ensure that effective bilingual services are provided. This requirement may be met through utilization of paid interpreters, qualified bilingual employees, and qualified employees of other agencies or community resources. These services must be provided, free of charge, to the applicant/recipient. If CDSS does not provide translations of a form, it is the county's responsibility to read and interpret the form if an applicant or recipient requests it.

Additionally, the CWDs must provide auxiliary aids and services to persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, or persons with impaired speech, vision, or manual skills, where applicable. More information regarding provisions for services to applicants and recipients who have limited English proficiency or who have disabilities can be found in [MPP Section 21-115](#) and [ACL 19-45](#).

If you have any questions regarding this letter, contact the Data Stewardship and Integrity Bureau at IEVSReviewUnit@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

RYAN GILLETTE
Chief Data Officer
Research, Automation, and Data Division