

June 10, 2025

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 25-36

The purpose of this All County Letter is to inform County Health and Human Service Agencies of an increase to the Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care and Income In-Kind levels effective July 1, 2025, for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids, Refugee Cash Assistance, Entrant Cash Assistance, and the Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program.



JENNIFER TROIA
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

June 10, 2025

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 25-36

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

SUBJECT: COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT INCREASE TO THE MINIMUM
BASIC STANDARD OF ADEQUATE CARE AND INCOME IN-KIND
LEVELS FOR CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND
RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS, REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE,
ENTRANT CASH ASSISTANCE, AND THE TRAFFICKING AND
CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REFERENCE: [WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTIONS 1450, 11452,](#)
[AND 11453; MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES](#)
[SECTIONS 69-201.4, 69-301, AND 70-105; ALL COUNTY](#)
[LETTER 24-37](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform County Health and Human Service Agencies (HHSAs) of a 3.42 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to the Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC) and Income In-Kind (IIK) levels effective July 1, 2025, 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 new MBSAC levels provided via this letter are to be used in determining applicant financial eligibility for families that apply for CalWORKs on or after July 1, 2025.

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 because of the MBSAC COLA.

The California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) will be updated to reflect the new MBSAC and IIK levels. If the CalSAWS is unable to implement the new MBSAC level by July 1, 2025, the County HHSA must review and correct any applications denied on or after July 1, 2025, 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 must be used prospectively as soon as timely and adequate notice can be provided.

**REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE, ENTRANT CASH ASSISTANCE, AND
TRAFFICKING AND CRIME VICTIM'S ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The instructions provided in this letter also apply to RCA/ECA and TCVAP applicants and recipients. The RCA, ECA, and TCVAP cash assistance programs follow CalWORKs administrative rules with limited exceptions. Pursuant to [MPP Section 69-201.4](#), CalWORKs regulations apply to financial eligibility and payments for the RCA program, unless specifically superseded by RCA regulations. Except otherwise provided, ECA and TCVAP recipients must be provided cash assistance under the same conditions and to the same extent as the RCA program per [MPP Sections 69-301](#) and [70-105](#), respectively.

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.

For RCA and ECA, contact the Refugee Programs Bureau at RefugeePolicy@dss.ca.gov. For TCVAP, contact TCVAP@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ALEXIS FERNÁNDEZ GARCIA
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

Attachment

ATTACHMENT A

MBSAC Payment Standards July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026

Region 1 Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 California Needs Index (CNI) 3.42%

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
1	\$930	422	89	231	70
2	\$1,526	560	102	493	137
3	\$1,892	613	105	632	204
4	\$2,244	645	111	781	272
5	\$2,561	645	111	947	346
6	\$2,880	645	111	1,095	415
7	\$3,166	645	111	1,221	484
8	\$3,445	645	111	1,332	538
9	\$3,738	645	111	1,466	618
10	\$4,056	645	111	1,586	677
More than 10	Add \$36 for each extra person				

Region 2 FY 2025-26 CNI 3.42%

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
1	\$882	404	89	231	70
2	\$1,449	534	102	493	137
3	\$1,795	584	105	632	204
4	\$2,134	613	111	781	272
5	\$2,441	613	111	947	346
6	\$2,741	613	111	1,095	415
7	\$3,002	613	111	1,221	484
8	\$3,279	613	111	1,332	538
9	\$3,544	613	111	1,466	618
10	\$3,858	613	111	1,586	677
More than 10	Add \$36 for each extra person				