

May 11, 2020

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

This All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) provides guidance to County Welfare Departments regarding the CalWORKs Stage One Child Care immediate and continuous eligibility policy in relation to the statewide outbreak of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19 or Novel Coronavirus).



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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May 11, 2020

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

FROM: JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO
KIDS (CALWORKS) STAGE ONE CHILD CARE: IMMEDIATE AND
CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY POLICY AS PERTAINS TO THE
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19 OR NOVEL
CORONAVIRUS)

The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) regarding the CalWORKs Stage One Child Care immediate and continuous eligibility policy and procedures in relation to the statewide outbreak of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19 or Novel Coronavirus). CWDs are reminded to continue to implement immediate and continuous eligibility as outlined in [All County Letter \(ACL\) 19-99](#), [ACL 19-110](#), and [ACL 20-03](#), and in accordance with [Senate Bill 80](#) and [Assembly Bill 121](#). To the extent that this letter is inconsistent with guidance provided in ACWDLs dated March 13 and March 30, 2020, the guidance contained in this ACWDL supersedes previous ACWDLs.

The California Department of Social Services (Department) is in continuous contact with the California Department of Education (CDE) and other partners in efforts to ensure that all guidance issued to CWDs is in alignment across the entire child care system during this critical time. The Department is focused on ensuring that child care services for CalWORKs families continue, while putting necessary safeguards in place to mitigate potential decreases to child care capacity during and after the COVID-19 emergency. These safeguards include streamlining attendance requirements, paying providers based on certified need, and allowing temporary payments for nonoperational child care providers. The Department has ensured that contractors will reimburse providers that have closed due to the response to COVID-19 and are not providing services for up to 30 days after closure ([ACWDL, March 30, 2020](#)).

Any disruptions in child care use due to COVID-19 shall not change the family's child care authorization. All new CalWORKs cases will continue to be authorized for 12 months of full-time child care, concurrently with the family's CalWORKs cash aid approval, even if Welfare-to-Work or other engagement activities are temporarily suspended. Immediate and continuous Stage One Child Care will continue to begin on the date the child care authorization is provided or the first day child care is used, whichever is later. Due to COVID-19 and the resulting recertification waivers affecting multiple self-sufficiency programs, some families will have a child care authorization that lasts longer than 12 months.

CalWORKs families who were receiving campus child care and are currently in need of Stage One Child Care due to the closing of campus child care centers will be eligible for immediate and continuous Stage One Child Care, so long as they meet CalWORKs eligibility guidelines. In addition, all families receiving Stage One Child Care will be eligible for a full-time child care authorization within SAWS or other automated systems for their school-age children whose schools are closed or engaging in distance learning until June 3, 2020. The Department continues to emphasize the importance of parental choice, which ensures CalWORKs participants can choose child care that is most suitable for their family.

If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact the Child Care and Intergenerational Services Bureau at CCPB@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division