

January 22, 2021

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER**

The purpose of this letter is to provide further guidance on the Cal-OAR data validation activities taking place during Fiscal Year 2020-21.



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

January 22, 2021

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

FROM: KRISTINA MEZA, BRANCH CHIEF  
CALWORKS AND FAMILY RESILIENCE BRANCH

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO  
KIDS (CALWORKS) OUTCOMES AND ACCOUNTABILITY  
REVIEW (CAL-OAR) VOLUNTARY PHASE ONE AND TWO DATA  
VALIDATION

REFERENCE: [ALL COUNTY LETTERS \(ACL\) 19-40, ACL 20-95, ASSEMBLY  
BILL \(AB\) 79 \(CHAPTER 11, STATUTES OF 2020\)](#)

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter is to provide additional guidance to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) regarding the one-year delay in Cal-OAR implementation as described in [ACL 20-95](#). This letter does not change any obligations or guidance for CWDs that have chosen not to participate in Cal-OAR data validation during the one-year delay, nor does it mandate continued participation for CWDs that have indicated they will voluntarily participate.

As described in [ACL 20-95](#), Cal-OAR was suspended for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 by [AB 79](#). During this time, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) continues to calculate and share the Existing Reporting (i.e. Phase 0) performance measures with all CWDs and post these data on the [Cal-OAR Data Dashboard](#).

CDSS previously offered counties the opportunity to voluntarily participate in validation of Phase One and Phase Two data during FY 2020-21. A number of CWDs have indicated that they are interested in participating. The CWDs that indicated they were interested in participating will be provided funding during the FY to engage in activities related to the Phase One and/or Phase Two data validation. Specific claiming information will be provided in an upcoming County Fiscal Letter.

Data validation is a collaborative process to ensure the accuracy, consistency, and quality of the Cal-OAR data files using a robust up-front data validation process and ongoing reviews. This includes review of the data that is generated by the SAWS

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systems and sent to CDSS in order to ensure that the underlying code and/or programming that produces the individual-level data files is accurate and the data sent to CDSS aligns with data that counties can access directly through the SAWS systems. Phase One data will be sent to counties to review no more often than once a month. Phase Two data will be reviewed once during the Fiscal Year.

As a reminder, the following CWDs have expressed some level of interest in volunteering to participate in data validation either throughout or later in FY 2020-21:

- Alameda
- Butte
- Calaveras
- Fresno
- Imperial
- Inyo
- Kern
- Kings
- Los Angeles
- Mariposa
- Monterey
- Orange
- Riverside
- Sacramento
- San Bernardino
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Clara
- Shasta
- Sonoma
- Tehama
- Tulare
- Tuolumne
- Yuba

If your CWD expressed interest in the optional data validation activities, the CDSS Continual Quality Improvement Specialist assigned to your CWD will be in contact with your county Cal-OAR contact to provide next steps.

Additional information regarding Cal-OAR can be found at the [Cal-OAR website](#). If you have questions concerning this letter or Cal-OAR, please contact your CalWORKs Engagement Bureau [CQI Specialist](#), contact the main Engagement Bureau line at (916) 654-2137 or email the Cal-OAR inbox at [Cal-OAR@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Cal-OAR@dss.ca.gov).