

June 3, 2022

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter is to notify and encourage counties to use California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Family Stabilization to assist families during the current baby formula shortage.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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June 3, 2022

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) USE OF FAMILY STABILIZATION (FS) TO
ASSIST WELFARE-TO-WORK (WTW) PARTICIPANTS DURING
THE CURRENT BABY FORMULA SHORTAGE

The recent [recall of certain 2022 Abbott powdered formulas](#), along with the impacts of the ongoing pandemic, has led to periodic shortages of major brands of infant formula. The infant formula supply chain problems have affected all consumers, including California families receiving formula through the Women Infants and Child (WIC) program.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) recognizes that the baby formula shortage disproportionately affects the populations the CDSS and County Welfare Departments (CWD) serve. In light of the shortage and the subsequent increase in formula prices, now and into the future, the CDSS would like to encourage CWDs to assist their California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) population as best they can. The Family Stabilization (FS) program can be used for Welfare-To-Work (WTW) participants to obtain or cover costs related to baby formula, as well as other supports in order to stabilize the family.

The FS program is designed to ensure a basic level of stability within a family prior to, or concurrently with, participation in WTW. CalWORKs WTW clients are eligible to participate in FS at any time if the county determines that the family is experiencing an identified situation and/or crisis that is destabilizing the family. This includes families that are struggling to feed their children due to an inability to obtain formula or are impacted due to the rising costs associated with the baby formula shortage. Exempt individuals

are also eligible to participate in FS if the CWD determines that it will enable future participation in WTW per [MPP Section 42-749.13](#).

Refer to [County Fiscal Letter \(CFL\) 21-22-16](#) for current FS allocation information. [County expense claiming](#) for baby formula or related expense may be claimed to either:

- PIN 884016 Ancillary Expenses-Employed
- PIN 884029 Other Supportive Services-Unemployed

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the CalWORKs Engagement Bureau at (916) 654-1451 or at CWEngagementPolicy@dss.ca.gov.