

September 20, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter is to inform County Welfare Departments and Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Administrators of the expiration of the Cell-Ed Skills 4 Life Remote Learning Services and Laptops 4 Life contract.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

September 20, 2023

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS

FROM: ALEXIS FERNÁNDEZ GARCIA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT DIVISION

SUBJECT: SUNSET OF THE CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND
RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS CELL-ED SKILLS 4 LIFE REMOTE
LEARNING SERVICES AND LAPTOPS 4 LIFE CONTRACT

REFERENCE: [EXECUTIVE ORDER N-33-20](#); [ALL COUNTY
INFORMATION NOTICE \(ACIN\) I-55-20](#); [ALL COUNTY
WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER \(ACWDL\) 10-19-20](#);
[ACWDL 04-06-22](#); [ACWDL 05-03-22](#); [ACWDL 11-02-22](#);
[ACWDL 02-07-23](#); [ACWDL 03-30-23](#)

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) and Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Administrators of the expiration of the Cell-Ed Skills 4 Life (S4L) Remote Learning services and Laptops 4 Life (L4L) contract effective September 30, 2023.

CELL-ED SKILLS 4 LIFE CONTRACT EXPIRATION

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) entered into an emergency contract with Cell-Ed to provide remote learning services to participants in the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Welfare to Work (WTW) and Tribal TANF programs starting in 2020. The contract with Cell-Ed will conclude September 30, 2023, and will not be renewed.

With the expiration of the contract between CDSS and Cell-Ed, the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program Laptop Loaner Program, also known as L4L, will also conclude.

Information on the L4L program can be found in [ACWDL dated November 2, 2022](#).

BACKGROUND

On March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued [Executive Order N-33-20](#), which initiated the stay-at-home order for all non-essential California residents in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Counties sought solutions to allow individuals and families to participate and engage in their programmatic activities remotely.

CDSS partnered with Cell-Ed to provide CalWORKs and Tribal TANF participants with the opportunity to receive education and training services through mobile devices to build skills and engage in activities while continuing to shelter in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR REMOTE LEARNING

CDSS continues to support remote learning solutions for participants who may face transportation or other challenges. To gain a better understanding of the CWD and Tribal TANF Administrators experience and interest in using remote learning solutions to serve participants, CDSS will issue a survey requesting feedback on the use of remote learning services program. Counties may also consider contracting with Cell-Ed or similar providers for remote learning services on an individual basis using local Employment Services funding after the current contract expires.

For more information on the Cell-Ed Skills 4 Life and Laptops 4 Life program, please visit the [Cell-Ed website](#), or contact Cell-Ed via email at california@cell-ed.com or via telephone at (213) 325-3311. If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, please contact your specific program via the following email addresses:

- CalWORKs Engagement Bureau: CWEngagementPolicy@dss.ca.gov
- Refugee Cash Assistance/Entrant Cash Assistance and Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program: RPB@dss.ca.gov
- CalWORKs Home Visiting Program: CalWORKsHVP@dss.ca.gov
- Tribal TANF: TribalTANF@dss.ca.gov