

October 27, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter is to provide County Welfare Departments information related to the sunset of the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund and the Golden State Grant Program.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

October 27, 2023

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

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

SUBJECT: SUNSET OF THE PANDEMIC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND
AND GOLDEN STATE GRANT PROGRAM

REFERENCE: [PANDEMIC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND \(SECTION 9201 OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT, PUBLIC LAW 117-2; SECTION 403\(C\) OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT\), ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 135 \(CHAPTER 85, STATUTES OF 2021\), SENATE BILL \(SB\) 88 \(CHAPTER 8, STATUTES OF 2021\); ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) NO. 21-23; ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER \(ACWDL\) DATED MARCH 11, 2021; ACWDL DATED JULY 22, 2021; AND ACWDL DATED APRIL 5, 2022](#)

The purpose of this letter is to inform county welfare departments (CWDs) that the Golden State Grant (GSG) Program and the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund (PEAF) I and PEAF II have ended; therefore, CWDs must cease to submit claims for GSG or PEAF funding.

BACKGROUND

Golden State Grant Program

On February 23, 2021, Governor Newsom signed [SB 88](#), which established the GSG Program and authorized flat-rate, one-time payments of \$600 for eligible California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), CalFresh, and Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Legal Immigrants (CAPI) recipients who were active recipients as of the date of payment, which occurred in Spring 2021 per [All County Letter \(ACL\) 21-23](#).

Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund I and II

[The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#), signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021, appropriated pandemic emergency assistance funding to states to be distributed as non-recurrent short-term benefits to assist needy families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. On July 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed [AB 135](#), which established the PEAf program and required the California Department of Social Services to make a flat-rate, one-time payment to each CalWORKs assistance unit (AU) that was an active AU on the date of eligibility. As described in the [ACWDL dated July 22, 2021](#), flat-rate, one-time payments were made in the summer of 2021 in the amount of \$640 per AU based on January 2021 caseload data.

On February 1, 2022, the Administration for Children and Families released [subsequent guidance](#) authorizing the use of any remaining, unspent PEAf funds allocated to states, referred to as PEAf II payments in the [ACWDL dated April 5, 2022](#). PEAf II payments consisted of a flat-rate, one-time payment of \$47 per CalWORKs AU made in the summer of 2022, based on February 2022 caseload data.

GUIDANCE

In accordance with [Government Code Section 16304.1](#), the State General Fund appropriation for the GSG program expired as of June 30, 2023, and no additional GSG funds remain available. Therefore, CWDs must cease to submit claims for GSG funds, and any claims submitted on or after July 1, 2023, will not be processed.

Pursuant to [Section 9201 of the American Rescue Plan Act](#), states had until September 30, 2022, to expend PEAf funding. Therefore, counties must cease to submit claims for PEAf funds, and claims submitted on or after October 1, 2022, will not be processed.

A County Fiscal Letter providing adjustment-related guidance for counties that have made claims after these deadlines is forthcoming.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Programmatic questions regarding CalWORKs may be directed to the Early Engagement and Eligibility Bureau at CWEligibilityPolicy@dss.ca.gov. Fiscal questions regarding this letter may be directed to Fiscal.Systems@dss.ca.gov.