

February 19, 2025

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

The purpose of this letter is to provide County Health and Human Service Agencies with guidance to implement the provisions of Executive Order N-21-25 signed by Governor Newsom on February 14, 2025, pertaining to California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids flexibilities for families directly impacted by the wildfires in Los Angeles County.



JENNIFER TROIA
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

February 19, 2025

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

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

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO
KIDS: EXECUTIVE ORDER FLEXIBILITIES IN RESPONSE TO
LOS ANGELES COUNTY WILDFIRES

REFERENCE: [EXECUTIVE ORDER N-21-25 SIGNED FEBRUARY 4, 2025](#);
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTIONS [11155](#),
[11155.2](#), [11155.6](#), [11157.5](#), [11257](#), AND [11257.5](#); [THE MANUAL
OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES \(MPP\) 40-105.4 MPP 44-115](#);
ALL COUNTY LETTERS [14-98](#), [17-87](#), [18-34](#), [21-134](#), [24-36](#), [24-
54](#), AND [24-37](#).

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter is to provide County Health and Human Service Agencies (HHSAs) with guidance to implement the provisions of [Executive Order N-21-25](#) signed by Governor Newsom on February 14, 2025, pertaining to California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) flexibilities for families directly impacted by the wildfires in Los Angeles County.

Background

Beginning Tuesday, January 7, 2025, multiple wildfires ignited across Los Angeles County (County HHSAs). The fires prompted mandatory evacuation orders for hundreds of thousands of households throughout the County. The severe wildfires have resulted in road and school closures, left thousands without power, and damaged vital infrastructure.

On Tuesday, January 7, 2025, California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a [State of Emergency](#) for the County due to the Palisades Fire. On Tuesday, January 7, 2025, the

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued a [Fire Management Assistance Declaration](#) for the County due to the Palisades Fire and a second [Fire Management Assistance Declaration](#) due to the Eaton Fire. On Wednesday, January 8, 2025, FEMA issued a third [Fire Management Assistance Declaration](#) for the County due to the Hurst Fire. On Wednesday, January 8, 2025, the county was issued a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration with Individual Assistance ([FEMA-4856-DR](#)) for the severe wildfires that began on January 7, 2025.

CalWORKs Flexibilities

In response to the Los Angeles County wildfires and to ensure that impacted families can continue meeting their basic needs and maintain their CalWORKs benefits, [Executive Order N-21-25](#) provides authority for the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to waive:

1. CalWORKs resource and vehicle limits.
2. CalWORKs income in-kind (IIK) policy.

The guidance outlined below is effective immediately for families receiving CalWORKs that are impacted by the wildfires, defined as those who reside in the following ZIP codes within Los Angeles County:

Wildfire	Eligible ZIP Codes
Eaton	91104, 91206, 91103, 91016, 91010, 91001, 91214, 91101, 91107, 91006, 91208, 91020, 91105, 91011, 91024, 91008, 91007, 91042, and 91106
Hughes	91334, 91350, 91355, 91384, 91390, 93532, and 93536
Hurst	91342, 91344, 91321, 91326, 91381, and 91311
Palisades	90049, 91302, 91301, 90290, 90272, 90265, 90402, 90073, 90077, 90095, 90401, 90403, 90404, 91316, 91356, 91367, 91403, 91436, and 91340

As a reminder, SAR 7 and redeterminations due in January, February, and March 2025 have been adjusted and certification periods extended by six months for impacted families in accordance with Executive Order N-17-25. For more information, please see [ACWDL dated February 10, 2025](#).

Additionally, this ACWDL reminds the County HHSA of existing flexibilities pertaining to verifications and good cause exemptions for the immunization and school attendance requirements.

1. Resource and Vehicle Limits

Effective immediately, impacted families applying for or receiving CalWORKs aid are exempt from the CalWORKs resource and vehicle limit outlined in All County Letters (ACL) [24-36](#) and [24-54](#).

When an impacted family reports resources or a new vehicle, the County HHSA must make a case notation and must not take any action related to the resource and vehicle limit. When the Governor's disaster declaration ends, the County HHSA will follow up with the family at their next SAR 7 or redetermination to verify resources and make any related changes. This flexibility is necessary to ensure that donations received do not impact the family's eligibility for CalWORKs or their grant amount. This flexibility is effective until the end of the Governor's disaster declaration.

2. Income In-Kind

Effective immediately, impacted families applying for or receiving CalWORKs aid are exempt from the IIK policy outlined in the [Manual of Policies and Procedures \(MPP\) Section 44-115](#) and [ACL 24-37](#). During the declared disaster, items which are typically subject to the IIK policy are exempt from consideration, and those specific items will continue to be exempt following the end of the disaster.

When an impacted family reports receiving items that are typically considered under the IIK policy, the County HHSA must make a case notation and must not take any action related to the IIK policy. The County HHSA must follow up with the family at the next SAR 7 or redetermination to determine whether the family continues to receive those items at no cost. If the family continues to receive items considered exempt under this Executive Order after the disaster declaration is over, for example no cost shelter, those specific items will remain exempt and will not be considered when evaluating eligibility or calculating the family's CalWORKs grant moving forward. Any new items provided after the disaster declaration is over will be assessed under normal IIK policy.

This waiver is necessary to ensure that any resources or donations provided to a family free of cost during the declared disaster do not impact the family's eligibility or grant amount. This flexibility is effective until the end of the Governor's disaster declaration.

Existing Flexibilities: CalWORKs Verifications & Good Cause Exemptions

Impacted families may have difficulty providing verifications to meet the remaining eligibility requirements. Therefore, in addition to these policy waivers, the County HHSA must accept self-attestation to verify all remaining eligibility requirements for impacted families receiving CalWORKs. This includes, but is not limited to, proof of income, address, and relationship. Additionally, counties are reminded of flexibilities related to pregnancy verification, in-person photo identification, and signature requirements as outlined in [ACL 21-134](#).

Additionally, there are existing flexibilities regarding good cause for the immunization and school attendance requirements for impacted families. When an impacted family requests a good cause exemption for the immunization and school attendance requirements, the County HHSA is encouraged to consider the family's circumstances and grant good cause.

Contact

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the Early Engagement and Eligibility Bureau at CWEligibilityBureau@dss.ca.gov.