



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

September 27, 2017

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

FROM: TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

SUBJECT: **REPEAL OF STATEWIDE FINGERPRINT IMAGING SYSTEM (SFIS) FOR THE CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CALWORKS) PROGRAM**

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☒ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☐ Initiated by CDSS

The purpose of this letter is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with a brief summary of Chapter 24, Statutes of 2017 (Senate Bill 89, Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review) that was published by the California Legislature on June 12, 2017.

The entire trailer bill can be viewed here:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB89.

Chapter 24 repeals the SFIS no later than **June 30, 2018**, and requires California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to update the Legislature no later than November 1, 2017 on “options for the design, implementation, and maintenance of an automated, nonbiometric identity verification method in the CalWORKs program”. The options are to include “procedures and a schedule” for implementation. Prior to this update, CDSS is consulting with specified stakeholders including representatives from the County Welfare Directors Association, CWDs, California Welfare Fraud Investigators Association, legislative staff, welfare and immigrant advocacy organizations, CalWORKs recipients, and the Governor’s office.

Additionally, Chapter 24 requires annual updates to the Legislature at budget hearings that will address:

- Improvement of identity verification and prevention of duplicate aid;
- Improvement of the client experience; and
- Increased efficiency in the county eligibility process.

At this time, no action is required. CWDs must continue to use the SFIS for all CalWORKs applicants as required until further notice. In the coming months, the CDSS will release All County Letters with further instructions for decommissioning of the SFIS and the implementation of its replacement. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Welfare Fraud Bureau at (916) 657-3451 or email PIBPolicyUnit@dss.ca.gov.