



CDSS

JOHN A. WAGNER  
DIRECTOR

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

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

June 21, 2010

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 10-34

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS  
(CalWORKs): COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) INCREASE TO  
THE MINIMUM BASIC STANDARD OF ADEQUATE CARE (MBSAC)  
LEVELS

REFERENCE: WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS (W&I) CODE SECTIONS 11450, 11452,  
and 11453

MBSAC INCREASE

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties of an increase to the CalWORKs MBSAC levels effective July 1, 2010. W&I Code Section 11453 provides that the CalWORKs MBSAC levels shall be adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living. This year's COLA increases the MBSAC and Income In-Kind levels by 1.57 percent. The new MBSAC levels are to be used in determining applicant financial eligibility for those families that apply for CalWORKs on or after July 1, 2010.

Per W&I Code Section 11453(c) (6), beginning in the 2010-11 fiscal year, no adjustment to the maximum aid payment levels shall be made unless otherwise specified by statute.

The new CalWORKs MBSAC Payment Standards Chart for Region 1 and 2 is enclosed to assist in implementing these changes. New Income In-Kind levels are included in this chart as these amounts also increased as a result of the MBSAC COLA.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

RETROACTIVE ELIGIBILITY FOR DENIED APPLICATIONS

The new MBSAC levels are to be used in determining applicant financial eligibility for those families that apply for CalWORKs on or after July 1, 2010. Since the effective date for the MBSAC COLA is July 1, 2010, counties are instructed to review only previously denied applications which were denied solely for failing the applicant financial eligibility income test for July 2010 due to the higher MBSAC level.

Counties must make any necessary retroactive and all prospective changes effective as soon as administratively possible to implement the increase in the MBSAC levels and retroactively approve those applications, if appropriate. Please refer to the attachment for the MBSAC and In Kind Income levels effective July 1, 2010.

REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE (RCA) AND TRAFFICKING AND CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TCVAP)

These implementation instructions for the MBSAC COLA and the Income In-Kind changes shall also apply to RCA and TCVAP applicants and recipients.

CONTACTS

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this ACL please contact your CalWORKs county consultant, or call the CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau at (916) 654-1322. For questions regarding RCA and TCVAP, please contact Ms. Jeanette Robbins in the Refugee Programs Bureau at (916) 653-8980.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

CHARR LEE METSKER  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division

Attachment