



CDSS

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DIRECTOR

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

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

January 5, 2015

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 14-108

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS  
ALL TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS  
ALL TRIBAL CHAIRPERSONS  
ALL COUNTY TRIBAL TANF LIAISONS

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) AND CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) TIME LIMIT EXEMPTION FOR RECIPIENTS LIVING IN INDIAN COUNTRY WHERE THE UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL OF ADULTS IS 50 PERCENT OR HIGHER

REFERENCE: ACL(S) 04-20, 05-16, 06-23, 07-25, 08-28E, 09-29, 10-24, 11-41, 12-30, 13-69.

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to report the results of a survey that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) recently completed. The goal of the survey was to document the names of the federally recognized tribes that have experienced a 50 percent or higher level of unemployment among adults in the previous calendar year. The process of conducting the survey and publishing the results allows the CDSS to act as a conduit to inform the County Welfare Departments (CWD) of Indian Country residents who qualify for the federal and state time limit exemption.

As provided in state regulations, (Manual of Policies and Procedures ([\(MPP\) Section 42-302.21\(h\)](#)) and in the Code of Federal Regulations ([45 C.F.R. 286.115\(d\)\(3\)](#)), county and Tribal TANF programs are required to exempt from the state and federal TANF program time limits any month in which an individual: (1) participated in the CalWORKs or Tribal TANF program; (2) lived in Indian Country or an Alaskan Native Village; and (3) at least 50 percent of the resident adults were not employed.

The attached table lists the Indian Country areas that responded to the CDSS survey and indicated that the unemployment of adults was 50 percent or higher during any month or all of calendar year 2013. TANF program participants who lived in these areas qualify for the exemption to the number of months allowed for participating in a TANF program, either CalWORKs or Tribal TANF.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

Documenting Time On Aid Exemption

If the Tribe administering the Indian Country area is not listed in the attached table and an individual does qualify for the exemption, that individual, a county, or a Tribal TANF program can obtain written documentation from a federally-recognized tribe. That certification should state that there existed a 50 percent adult unemployment rate in the Indian Country area during any or all of the calendar months of 2013, or any other period. The exemption may be applicable to a complete calendar year or any month in the year, depending on the time period stated on the certificate.

Please note that as of July 1, 2011, the CalWORKs time limit is 48 months. The federal TANF time limit for aid remains at 60 months. Instructions on the new CalWORKs time limit were issued in [ACL 11-33](#).

Counties are reminded that CalWORKs applicants and recipients must be informed of all program time limits, including the process necessary to claim exemptions, as set forth in [MPP Section 42-302.3](#). Those individuals must also be provided information on their accumulated time on aid at specific intervals, as required in [MPP Section 40-107\(a\)\(4\)](#). Those counties in which a Tribal TANF program operates may need to provide verification of clients' CalWORKs time on aid, including any time limit exemptions, to the Tribal TANF Program Administrator. The Tribal TANF Program Administrator will notify their clients of their remaining time on aid for purposes of the TANF 60-month time limit.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need additional information regarding the time limit, please contact your CalWORKs County Consultant or the CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau at (916) 654-1322.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

TODD BLAND  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division

Attachment