



CDSS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

August 26, 2016

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 16-68

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CaWORKs 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 (CaWORKs) 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](#), [14-108](#), [15-71](#); Manual of Policies and Procedures [42-302.21\(h\)](#); Code of Federal Regulations [45 C.F.R. 286.115\(d\)\(3\)](#).

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 in the state who have experienced 50 percent or higher unemployment among adults in their tribal service areas 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) if the Indian Country residents who participate in a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program 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\(d\)\(3\)](#)), counties and Tribal TANF programs are required to exempt from the state and federal TANF program time limit any month in which an individual is on aid and lives in Indian Country or an Alaskan Native Village, where at least 50 percent of the adults were not employed.

The attached chart shows the Indian Country areas that responded to the CDSS' survey and indicated that the unemployment of adults was 50 percent or higher during calendar year 2015. Individuals who lived in these areas during this year qualify for the time limit exemption for those specified months. If an individual lived in Indian Country in an area not listed on the attachment, the individual, the county, or the Tribal TANF program can obtain written documentation from a federally-recognized tribe that the individual lived where the unemployment of adults was 50 percent or more. That certification from the tribe qualifies the individual for the time limit exemption. The exemption may be applicable to a complete calendar year or any month in the year.

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 No. 11-33](#), dated April 20, 2011.

Counties are reminded that CalWORKs applicants and recipients must be informed of all program time limit requirements, 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