

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



July 22, 2005

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 05-18

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

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) FOR THE MAXIMUM AID PAYMENT (MAP) AND THE MINIMUM BASIC STANDARD OF ADEQUATE CARE (MBSAC) LEVELS IN THE CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) AND REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE (RCA) PROGRAMS

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTIONS 11450 AND 11453

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding the adjustment to the CalWORKs and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) cash grant and MBSAC levels for the 2005/06 state fiscal year which were due to be effective July 1, 2005.

MAP COLA

The 2005/06 State budget and related legislation suspends the CalWORKs MAP COLA for two years and the MAP levels in effect in June 2005 will remain in effect through June 30, 2007. However, since the budget and related legislation was not approved as of July 1, 2005, the month of July is exempted from the two-year COLA suspension. Therefore, county welfare departments shall issue a one-time supplement to CalWORKs and RCA recipients for July 2005 as soon as administratively possible. For CalWORKs and RCA purposes, this payment is considered a corrective underpayment and pursuant to Manual of Policy and Procedures (MPP) Section 44-340.6, is not considered income or a resource in the month paid nor the following month. The Food Stamp Program will treat the July CalWORKs MAP COLA as a resource, in accordance with MPP Section 63-501.111, since it is a nonrecurring one-time payment. As a reminder, in both CalWORKs and Food Stamps, property/resources are determined only once per quarter based on the QR7 information. Please refer to the attachment for MAP levels needed to calculate the July supplement. Mandatory Notice of Action language for the July supplement is attached.

MBSAC COLA

The MBSAC COLA increase was not suspended and is therefore effective July 1, 2005. The new MBSAC levels are to be used in determining applicant financial eligibility for those families that apply for CalWORKs or RCA on or after July 1, 2005. Since the effective date for the MBSAC COLA is July 1, 2005, counties are instructed to review only previously denied applications which were denied solely for failing the applicant financial eligibility income test for July 2005 due to the lower 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, 2005.

Camera Ready Copies and Translations

If your office has internet access, you may obtain copies of the English forms from the CDSS webpage at: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/On-lineFor_271.htm. For questions on the English forms, please call Forms Management Unit at (916) 657-1907. For copies of forms in other languages, including Spanish forms, please go to: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_274.htm. Translated materials are posted on an ongoing basis as soon as they are completed. For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 445-6778.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your CalWORKs county consultant. For questions regarding RCA COLAs, please call Ms. Mary Wiseman, Refugee Programs Bureau, at (916) 654-2805.

Sincerely,

CHARR LEE METSKER
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

Attachment

c: CWDA
CSAC