

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

May 5, 1999



ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 99-35

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALIST

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: INCREASES TO THE MAXIMUM AID PAYMENT (MAP) AND MINIMUM BASIC STANDARD OF ADEQUATE CARE (MBSAC) LEVELS IN THE CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) PROGRAM

REFERENCE: WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE (WIC) SECTIONS 11450, 11452 AND 11453

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of increases to the Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) and Minimum Basic Standards of Adequate Care (MBSAC) levels in the CalWORKs program which are effective July 1, 1999. The increases are due to provisions in law which call for an annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA). This year's COLA increases the MAP and MBSAC by 2.36 percent.

The new MBSAC amounts will affect only families that apply for CalWORKs on or after July 1, 1999. The increased amounts in the In-Kind Income portion of the tables affect both recipients and new applicants of CalWORKs who state they earn or receive in kind any one of the need items listed on this table. The new MAP levels are used in determining the aid payments for July 1999 and subsequent months. The new CalWORKs Payments Standards tables for Region 1 and Region 2 are included in Attachments 1A and 1B and are provided to assist you in implementing the changes.

CalWORKs and Food Stamp Mass Informing Notice

Attachments 2A and 2B provide you with the mass informing stuffers you should use to notify CalWORKs recipients of the new MAP levels. Attachment 2A is designed for residents of Region 1, and 2B for Region 2 residents. These stuffers provide information about the changes in cash aid standards and serve as advance notification to CalWORKs recipients. Both attachments also contain language to inform households that food stamps may be reduced due to the increase in cash aid. In addition, the stuffer includes the State's toll free number for

public inquiries. Those calling the number will hear a taped message concerning the changes and hearing rights associated with law changes. The taped message will be provided in English and Spanish. The attached stuffers must be sent to current CalWORKs recipients so that they are received no later than July 1, 1999.

CalWORKs Notice of Action (NOA) Language

Attachment 3 provides NOA language and instructions for use of the NOA specified. Counties may, but are not legally required to, issue NOAs for increases in grants resulting solely from the law change.

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Entrant Cash Assistance (ECA)

RCA recipients are to receive the COLA in the MBSAC and MAP, equivalent to the COLA provided to CalWORKs recipients. This instruction complies with the September 29, 1998 waiver which was granted by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (reference All County Letter Number 97-62).

Please be advised this waiver is limited to the MBSAC and the MAP only. It does not waive any other requirements, including the method of grant calculation applicable to RCA recipients.

Food Stamp Information

Adjustments in Food Stamp benefits resulting from cash aid changes are considered a mass change as provided in Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) 63-504.392. The mass informing stuffers provided in Attachments 2A and 2B contain the necessary information for advising Public Assistance Food Stamp households of benefit changes. An individual Notice of Change (DFA 377.4) is not required if the sole reason for the change in benefits is the MAP increase.

The following describes how to treat the CalWORKs MAP increase supplemental payment received by Food Stamp households:

For monthly reporting households subject to retrospective budgeting, if the County Welfare Department (CWD) sends a supplemental payment for the MAP increase in the month of July for the month of July, but did not have time to prospectively budget the supplemental payment, the CWD must retrospectively budget the July supplement in September, 1999 [MPP 63-503.232(c)(5)(A)].

However, if the July supplement is not sent until August, it is considered a non-recurring lump sum payment for Food Stamp Program purposes and is counted as a resource in the month of August [MPP 63-502.2(j)]. This provision applies to retrospectively budgeted households as well as prospectively budgeted households.

Translations and Camera-Ready Copies

For camera-ready copies of English and Spanish forms, call Forms Management Unit (FMU) at (916) 657-1907 or CALNET at 437-1907. If your office has Internet access, you may obtain various forms and Notice of Form Change (GEN 127) from the CDSS web page at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov>. To accommodate agencies without Internet access, copies will be available by contacting FMU.

For all translated messages and Russian and Asian (Cambodian, Chinese and Vietnamese) versions of forms, call Language Translation Services (LTS) at (916) 654-1282 or CALNET 464-1282. If you need several forms, fax your request to (916) 657-3429. Your Forms Coordinator now receives all translations as soon as they become available.

Contacts

If you have any questions regarding the CalWORKs MAP and MBSAC increases, please contact Cora Myers at (916) 654-2236 or CALNET 464-2236. Questions about RCA/ECA should be addressed to Linda Keene at (916) 654-2602 or CALNET 464-2602. For questions regarding the treatment of the MAP increase in the Food Stamp budget, you may contact Maria Tarango at (916) 654-1883 or CALNET 464-1883.

Sincerely,
***Original document signed by
Bruce Wagstaff on May 5, 1999***
BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

Attachments

c: CWDA
CSAC