

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) CalWORKs Program Guide**

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**Background:**

An Assistance Unit (AU) with a pregnant woman and no other eligible child is referred to as a “Pregnant Woman Only” (PWO) case. A PWO may be eligible to receive CalWORKs and Pregnancy Special Need (PSN) payments, any time after medical verification of pregnancy is provided, depending on the trimester of her pregnancy.

**Policy**

**44-200.D.1 Pregnancy Special Need**

A pregnancy special need (PSN) payment is \$47 per month. This payment is intended to provide for the extra needs of an aided woman during pregnancy. The amount is not increased when multiple births are expected.

A request for PSN payment is defined as notification, either verbally or in writing, that the woman is pregnant.

In addition to the monthly CalWORKs grant, a PSN payment will be authorized for all eligible pregnant women who have provided medical verification of pregnancy.

Although pregnancy verification must be received prior to granting aid or the PSN, receipt of that verification does not delay the beginning date of aid (BDA).

Medical verification, as outlined in [CPG 10-020.A.6](#), is required to verify pregnancy initially (when the pregnancy is reported) and when the pregnancy continues beyond the originally estimated date of birth. The statement must include the diagnosis and estimated delivery date.

**Note:** An eligible child in the Assistance Unit (AU) may be considered a pregnant woman once her pregnancy has been verified.

**44-200.D.2 Eligible Applicant**

**Pregnant Woman Only (PWO) Applicant:**

Refer to:

- [CPG 41-500.F.1 - Assistance Unit of One](#)
- [CPG 41-500.F.3 - Pregnancy Special Needs](#)

**PWO Teen Applicant:**

Refer to:

- [CPG 41-500.F.2 - CalWORKs Eligibility for Pregnant Teens with No Other Children](#)
- [CPG 41-500.F.3 - Pregnancy Special Needs](#)

**Pregnant Woman Applicant as Part of an AU:**

A pregnant woman who has applied and who is eligible for CalWORKs as part of an AU with other eligible people, or was the caretaker of a person in accordance with [CPG 41-500.D](#), will be entitled to receive the PSN payment from the date of application.

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**44-200.D.3 Eligible Recipient**

A mid-period request for a PSN for an aided woman will be granted from the first of the month in which either the need was reported, or the verification substantiates that the need exists, whichever is later. See [CPG 44-270.H.6](#).

**44-200.D.4 Sanctioned or Penalized Pregnant Woman**

A pregnant woman under a financial sanction or penalty is not entitled to a special needs payment, as:

- A financially sanctioned person is not being aided and therefore would not be eligible for a special needs payment.
- A penalty requires that the cash aid needs of any person failing to comply with certain eligibility requirements not be considered. These needs include PSN. This does not apply to cases in which Child Support penalty is being assessed.

**44-200.D.5 Ending the Pregnancy Special Need Semi-Annual Reporting (SAR) Impact**

PSN payments may not end mid-period or mid-year if CalWORKs for the AU will decrease. Additional information may be found in the following sections:

- [CPG 44-270.H.6 - Requests for Special Need Payments](#)
  - [Pregnancy Special Need](#)
- [CPG 44-270.H.12 - Adding a Newborn to the AU](#)
- [CPG 44-270.H.13 - Adding a Newborn and Father to a PWO AU](#)

**Procedure:**

None.

**Impacts:**

None.

**References:**

- [EAS 44-211.6](#)
- [EAS 82-836](#)
- [ACL 14-04](#)
- [ACL 15-38](#)

**Approval for Release:**

June 22, 2015

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by June 30, 2018.