

July 16, 2010

CalWORKs Program Guide Letter No. 220

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Subject **CalWORKs COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) INCREASE TO THE MINIMUM BASIC STANDARD OF ADEQUATE CARE (MBSAC) AND INCOME IN-KIND (IIK) LEVELS**

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Effective Date: July 1, 2010

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Reference All County Letter (ACL) No. 10-34

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Purpose The purpose of this letter is to inform staff of the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

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Background CalWORKs MAP, MBSAC and Income In-Kind levels are adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living.

This year the adjustments include:

- **1.57 percent** increase to the Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC) and Income In-Kind levels.
  - COLA increase **suspension** to the Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) levels.
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Summary of Updates The following CPG chapter has been loaded to the CPG online:

CPG Section	Title	Program Updates
<a href="#">44-300.G</a>	CalWORKs Payment Standards	Section updated with the new MBSAC and Income In-Kind levels.

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Retroactive  
Eligibility for  
Denied  
Applications

The new MBSAC levels are to be used in determining applicant financial eligibility for those families that apply for CalWORKs on or after July 1, 2010.

Human Services Specialists (HSS) are instructed to review only previously denied applications which were denied solely for failing the applicant financial eligibility income test for July 2010 due to the higher MBSAC level (please refer to Attachment 1).

HSSs shall 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.

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**Income In-  
Kind (IIK)  
Levels**

HSSs shall review the list of continuing cases, (please refer to Attachment 2), with IIK and update the values manually as appropriate:

- If the IIK amount on the case needs to reflect the new value, staff must run EDBC and authorize to update with the new IIK value.
- If the IIK amount does not need to be updated (client receives lower IIK value), staff need take no action.

The actions to increase the IIK value must be completed before Notice of Action (NOA) deadline in August 2010 for the budget month of September 2010 and ongoing.

Per Quarterly Reporting (QR) regulations, increased IIK levels are considered county-initiated. They may occur at any time during the Payment Quarter in which the change occurred.

**Note:** The increase in IIK levels will be effective for new applicants July 1, 2010.

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MAP COLA  
Suspension

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has announced that, beginning in the **2010-11 fiscal year**, no adjustment to the MAP levels shall be made unless otherwise specified by statute.

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RCA and TCVAP Impact	These instructions for the MBSAC and Income In-Kind changes also apply to Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP) applicants and recipients.
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Food Stamp Program Impact	Recipients receiving both Food Stamps and CalWORKs, RCA, or TCVAP will likely result in an increase in their food stamp allotment amounts due to the decrease in their cash grant.
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Medi-Cal Program Impact	None.
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Child Care Program Impact	None.
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Automation Impact	The reference tables in CalWIN have been updated to reflect the necessary MBSAC level changes (07/10) and IIK values (07/10).
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ACCESS Impact	ACCESS Customer Service Agents are to review <u>only</u> previously denied CalWORKs applications which were denied solely for failing the applicant financial eligibility income test for July 2010 due to the higher MBSAC and send a SharePoint to the Family Resource Center's (FRC) appropriate Task Group.
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If there are changes to case address and/or phone number, then ACCESS Agent is to make appropriate entries in CalWIN to update the case and make appropriate case comments.

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Forms Impact	None.
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Imaging Impact	None.
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Operational Impact	None.
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CalWORKs  
Program Guide

Section [44-300.G - CalWORKs Payment Standards](#) of the CalWORKs Program Guide has been updated with the new MBSAC and Income In-Kind levels.

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Assistance  
Standards Chart

The Assistance Standards chart for CalWORKs and Food Stamps chart has been updated with the new MBSAC and In-kind Income levels. The chart is attached to this letter.

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Scratch Budget

The QR Scratch Budget has been updated with the new MBSAC levels and been placed in the Enterprise/QR Excel Spreadsheet folder on the shared "S" drive.

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QC / QA Impact

Quality Assurance will cite the appropriate error when the regulations cited in the material have not been followed.

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Manager  
Approval

*Original signed 07/16/10*

**SILVIA MELENA**  
Assistant Deputy Director  
Self-Sufficiency Programs  
Strategic Planning & Operational Support

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CalWORKs

CalWORKs

EXEMPT MAP

REGION 1 (NON-EXEMPT)				
* (07/10)				
AU	MAP	5%	10%	MBSAC
1	\$345	\$17	\$35	\$548
2	561	28	56	899
3	694	35	69	1,114
4	828	41	83	1,322
5	941	47	94	1,509
6	1,057	53	106	1,696
7	1,162	58	116	1,864
8	1,265	63	127	2,030
9	1,367	68	137	2,202
10+	1,469	73	147	2,390**

\*\* Add \$20 to MBSAC for each additional person.

REGION 1 (EXEMPT)				
* (07/10)				
AU	MAP	5%	10%	MBSAC
1	\$382	\$19	\$38	\$548
2	627	31	63	899
3	776	39	78	1,114
4	923	46	92	1,322
5	1,050	53	105	1,509
6	1,180	59	118	1,696
7	1,296	65	130	1,864
8	1,414	71	141	2,030
9	1,527	76	153	2,202
10+	1,641	82	164	2,390**

\*\* Add \$20 to MBSAC for each additional person.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
Each adult parent/caretaker in the AU must meet one of the following conditions:
Is disabled and receiving:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSI/SSP</li> <li>• IHSS</li> <li>• SDI</li> <li>• TWC - Temp Wkrs Comp</li> <li>• TDI - Temp Dis Indem; or</li> </ul>
Is a non-needy non-parent caretaker.

CalWORKs INKIND INCOME

CalWORKs IRT

FOOD STAMP (10/09)

REGION 1 (07/10)						Region 1 (10/09)		FOOD STAMP (10/09)			
AU	HOUSING	UTILITIES	FOOD	CLOTHING	TOTAL	AU	IRT	HH SIZE	MAX ALLOT	MAXIMUM INCOME GROSS ❶	NET
1	\$247	\$53	\$136	\$42	\$478	0	\$227	1	\$200	\$1,174	\$903
2	331	59	290	81	761	1	1,174	2	367	1,579	1,215
3	362	62	372	121	917	2	1,579	3	526	1,984	1,526
4	379	65	460	160	1,064	3	1,984	4	668	2,389	1,838
5	379	65	557	202	1,203	4	2,389	5	793	2,794	2,150
6	379	65	645	242	1,331	5	2,794	6	952	3,200	2,461
7	379	65	719	284	1,447	6	3,200	7	1,052	3,605	2,773
8	379	65	786	317	1,547	7	3,605	8	1,202	4,010	3,085
9	379	65	864	365	1,673	8	4,010	9	1,352	4,416	3,397
10	379	65	933	400	1,777	9	4,416	10	1,502 ❷	4,822 ❸	3,709 ❹
<b>FOOD STAMP DEDUCTIONS</b>						10 or more	4,822				
<b>Standard Deduction (10/09)</b>		Max. Dependant Care Deduction:				<b>Utility Allowances</b>		❶ Gross Maximum Income is 130% of Poverty Level			
1 – 3 Persons		\$141				<b>NO CAP (10/08)</b>		❷ Add \$150 for each additional person			
4 Persons		\$153				SUA (10/08) \$287		❸ Add \$406 for each additional person			
5 Persons		\$179				Max. Excess Shelter Deduction (10/09) \$459		❹ Add \$312 for each additional person			
6 or more Persons		\$205				Homeless Shelter Deduction (10/02) \$143					
						TUA (11/06) \$20					

\* Due to the cost of living adjustment suspension and grant reduction, these MAP levels will remain in effect through June 2011 (unless otherwise specified). Assistant Standards Chart (07/10)