

February 6, 2012

CalWORKs Program Guide Letter No. 260

Subject EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC) AND CALWORKS ELIGIBILITY

Effective Date January 1, 2012

Reference Assembly Bill 12 (Chapter 559, Statutes of 2010); Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Sections 11253, 11253.3, 11403, and 11454.5; All County Information Notice (ACIN) I-40-11; All County Letters (ACLs) 11-36, 11-59, 11-61, 11-69, 11-77, 11-78, and 11-85; County Fiscal Letter (CFL) 11/12-32

Purpose The purpose of this letter is to notify Family Resource Center (FRC) staff of the new procedures for determining CalWORKs eligibility due to the Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program created by Assembly Bill (AB) 12.

Background AB 12 was signed into law on September 30, 2010. This bill allows the state of California to implement several provisions of the federal law PL 100-351, Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

One of these provisions is the extension of foster care which adds a new category of youth, **Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs)**, who are potentially eligible to receive foster care benefits up to age 20.

A NMD may be eligible to receive CalWORKs benefits if they meet all of the following criteria:

1. Is a current dependent child or ward of the juvenile court who is at least 18 but less than 21 years of age; and
2. Is in foster care under the responsibility of the county welfare department (CWD) or county probation department; and
3. Is participating in a transitional independent living case plan.

Subject: CPG LETTER # 260: EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC) AND CALWORKS ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for extended CalWORKs benefits, an NMD **must** be living with an approved caretaker relative, as determined by Child Welfare Services (CWS), who is not eligible to receive federal or state foster care payments. Extended CalWORKs benefits are 100% state-funded.

Program Timeframes

The CalWORKs changes created by AB 12 are in effect as of January 1, 2012, and will be **phased in over a three-year period** as follows:

- Effective January 1, 2012, NMDs are eligible for benefits up to age 19.
- Effective January 1, 2013, the age limit is extended to up to age 20 for an eligible NMD.
- Effective January 1, 2014, the extension of benefits for an NMD up to age 21 is contingent upon legislative approval.

Summary of Updates

The following CPG chapters have been loaded to the CPG online:

CPG Chapter	Title	Program Updates
40-100 P.	Inter-County Transfer	New paragraph added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Care (AFDC-FC) and Extended Foster Care (EFC)
40-100 S.	Intra-Program Transfer (IPT) from Foster Care	New section added to detail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures for IPT referrals from Foster Care • Relevant CalWORKs aid codes • Continuing CalWORKs eligibility under EFC Program
40-100 T.	Extended Foster Care (EFC) and CalWORKs Eligibility	New section added to detail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB 12 regulation and program timeframes • Responsibilities of the CWS social worker and CalWORKs eligibility staff • Continuing eligibility to extended CalWORKs • Grant Amount and Household Composition for Extended CalWORKs • Pregnant or Parenting

Subject: CPG LETTER # 260: EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC) AND CALWORKS ELIGIBILITY

		Teens (PPTs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFC impacts to CalFresh and Medi-Cal programs
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Program changes are indicated by highlighted text.

CalFresh Program Impact

Since NMDs are foster youth receiving CalWORKs under the Extended Foster Care Program, they will be considered for CalFresh purposes, to be boarders in the relative caretaker's household.

- If the CalFresh household requests that the NMD be included in the CalFresh household, the NMD will be an eligible member of the CalFresh household and the CalWORKs grant will be countable income in the CalFresh budget.
- If the CalFresh household wishes to exclude the NMD, the CalWORKs grant will be excluded as income to the household.

Refer to the following CalFresh Program Guide sections:

- [63-101.7, Foster Care Children and Foster Care Payments](#)
- [63-223.3, Payments and Benefits](#)
- [63-224.14, Foster Care Payments](#)
- [63-243.2, Income from Boarders](#)

Medi-Cal Program Impact

There is no change in Medi-Cal eligibility. NMDs who receive CalWORKs shall be eligible to full-scope Medi-Cal benefits with no share-of-cost under the new **4N aid code**, provided they are eligible under the Medi-Cal program for Former Foster Care Children (FFCC).

In order to meet Medi-Cal eligibility requirements for FFCC, the child must have been in foster care under the responsibility of the State on his/her 18th birthday, be under 21 years of age, and reside in California.

Child Care Program Impact

No impact.

**ACCESS
Impact**

ACCESS agents involved in the ICT process shall ensure that these regulations are applied when transferring cases involving minors under Foster Care (AFDC-FC) or Non-Minor Dependents under the Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program.

**Automation
and Fiscal
Impact**

Updates to the CalWIN system will not be available for the January 1, 2012, implementation date for the EFC Program. The CalWIN Project is in the process of creating a BENDS to address AB 12 CalWORKs Extended Benefits for NMDs (CR 5899).

In order to ensure that the correct level of benefits are issued without generating erroneous correspondence via CalWIN, CalWORKs staff is instructed to fail **both** the CalWORKs and Medi-Cal programs in CalWIN and delete any CalWIN-generated correspondence. HSSs shall issue extended CalWORKs benefits via the existing Non-System Determined Issuance (NSDI) process and issue Medi-Cal benefits via a MEDS Online (14-28) according to their current FRC procedures.

Since the 4N aid code is not currently available in CalWIN, CalWORKs staff shall complete the *Capture Non-System Determined Issuance* screen in CalWIN leaving the Aid Code field **blank** and entering Issuance Reason "**AB12 CW NMD-4N aid.**" Fiscal staff shall maintain a log to track all NSDI benefits issued due to AB 12 until CalWIN is fully updated.

It is anticipated that the 4N aid code shall be made available in CalWIN with the February 2012 Monthly Maintenance Release. Once available, staff shall utilize the 4N aid code when completing the NSDI screen.

MEDS Impact

The 4N aid code is not anticipated to be operable in MEDS until April 2012.

CalWORKs staff is instructed to fail **both** the CalWORKs and Medi-Cal programs in CalWIN and delete any CalWIN-generated correspondence. HSSs shall issue Medi-Cal benefits via a MEDS Online (14-28) form using the **existing aid code 4H** for minor dependents that are eligible to CalWORKs. The 4H aid code shall continue to be used for NMDs until the 4N aid code becomes available in the MEDS system. Once the MEDS system is able to accept the 4N aid code, staff shall update MEDS to reflect eligibility under the correct AB 12 aid code.

Subject: CPG LETTER # 260: EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC) AND CALWORKS ELIGIBILITY

MEDS Operators shall send transactions to the MEDS system using the Eligibility Status Action Code (ESAC) for “exception eligible” in the 4H aid code for any CalWORKs-eligible youth impacted by AB 12 until the new aid code is operable.

Forms Impact The following forms shall be forwarded from CWS staff to CalWORKs eligibility staff to confirm the EFC eligibility determination:

- ***Mutual Agreement for Extended Foster Care (SOC 162)***
- ***Six-Month Certification of Extended Foster Care Participation Form (SOC 161)***

Additionally, the following NMD-related correspondence are currently available in the “CalWORKs Correspondence – Shelf Stock” section of the Automation Reference Guide in the [CalWIN Intranet](#) and are in the process of being added to CalWIN:

- ***Reminder for Teens Turning 18 Years Old (QR 2103)***
- ***Notice of Action - Approval (NA 1269)***
- ***Notice of Action – Discontinue (NA 1270)***

The QR 2103 shall be sent to caretaker relatives of aided foster care youths at least 60 days before they turn 18 to inform them of possible continuing eligibility options.

Imaging Impact

Until the DoReS imaging system is updated to accept correspondence related to AB 12, each FRC shall be responsible for ensuring that required case documents are imaged to the CalWORKs case using the following templates:

AB 12 Correspondence	DoReS Template
Mutual Agreement for Extended Foster Care (SOC 162)	16-141 Statement of Facts Certification
Six-Month Certification of Extended Foster Care Participation Form (SOC 161)	16-141 Statement of Facts Certification
Notice of Action – Approval NMD (NA 1269)	16-140 Notice of Actions
Notice of Action – Discontinue NMD (NA 1270)	16-140 Notice of Actions

Operational The following specialized caseload banks have been created for each

Subject: CPG LETTER # 260: EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC) AND CALWORKS ELIGIBILITY

Impact

FRC to house all CalWORKs cases affected by AB 12:

FRC	Caseload ID	Caseload Bank Name
Centre City	CBKA	CC AB12 Bank, Pending
	CBK0	CC AB12 Bank, Continuing
North Inland	EBKA	NI AB12 Bank, Pending
	EBK0	NI AB12 Bank, Continuing
NI Fallbrook	EFKA	FA AB12 Bank, Pending
	EFK0	FA AB12 Bank, Continuing
NI Ramona	ERKA	RA AB12 Bank, Pending
	ERK0	RA AB12 Bank, Continuing
Lemon Grove	GBKA	LG AB12 Bank, Pending
	GBK0	LG AB12 Bank, Continuing
North Central	HBKA	NCE AB12 Bank, Pending
	HBK0	NCE AB12 Bank, Continuing
North Coastal	KBKA	NC AB12 Bank, Pending
	KBK0	NC AB12 Bank, Continuing
El Cajon	LBKA	EC AB12 Bank, Pending
	LBK0	EC AB12 Bank, Continuing
Northeast	NBKA	NE AB12 Bank, Pending
	NBK0	NE AB12 Bank, Continuing
Southeast	SBKA	SE AB12 Bank, Pending
	SBK0	SE AB12 Bank, Continuing
South Region	VBKA	SR AB12 Bank, Pending
	VBK0	SR AB12 Bank, Continuing

CalWORKs staff shall select the “**AB12 Referral-CWS**” application source option in CalWIN when completing the application-registration for each new CalWORKs referral from CWS.

The following special indicators must also be entered in CalWIN for tracking purposes:

Special Indicator	Applicable CalWIN Screen
case-specific: AB12 CalWORKs NMD	<i>Collect Case Special Indicators</i>
Special Indicator	Applicable CalWIN Screen
person-specific: AB12 CW NMD-4N aid	<i>Collect Individual Demographics Detail (Special Indicator button)</i>

Implementing the Program

Due to the delays in updating the CalWIN and MEDS systems, SPOS shall provide support during the implementation phase by processing

Subject: CPG LETTER # 260: EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC) AND CALWORKS ELIGIBILITY

the initial AB 12 CalWORKs referrals from CWS for a limited period. Once the initial extended CalWORKs benefit has been issued, SPOS shall transfer the case to the appropriate FRC for ongoing case maintenance along with any case documents that require imaging.

EBT card issuance for NMDs shall either be processed in-office in accordance with the existing No Wrong Door Policy or issued via mail to the current address, based on the NMD's preference.

**QC / QA
Impact**

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

**Assistant
Deputy
Director
Approval**



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MG

Subject: CPG LETTER # 260: EXTENDED FOSTER CARE (EFC) AND CALWORKS ELIGIBILITY