

February 20, 2014

CalWORKs Program Guide Letter No. 311

Subject **FIVE PERCENT INCREASE TO THE MAXIMUM AID PAYMENT (MAP) LEVELS**

Effective Date March 1, 2014

Reference All County Letter (ACL) 14-05

Purpose To notify Family Resource Center (FRC) staff of the five percent Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) increase.

In addition, the Income Reporting Threshold (IRT) figures will change when the MAP increases.

Background These changes are pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 85, which was signed by the Governor on June 27, 2013.

Changes to Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 1450.025 implement a five percent increase to the MAP levels and specify additional grant increases shall be made depending on projected revenue and costs.

Summary of Updates The following CPG sections have been loaded to the online CPG:

CPG Section	Title	Program Updates
44-300.G	CalWORKs Payment Standards	Section updated with the new MAP and IRT levels.
45-200	Assistance Standards Chart	Desk aid updated to reflect the new MAP and IRT levels.

Changes to the CPG are noted with highlighted text.

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**Informing
CalWORKs
Applicants and
Recipients**

TEMP 2250

Notice TEMP 2250 must be mailed to all recipients to inform them of the change in state law that increases MAP levels effective March 1, 2014 and subsequently inform them of the potential decrease to their CalFresh benefits as a result of the increase to their income.

TM44-315G NOA

Recipients must receive an adequate notice of action (NOA) TM44-315G which provides information on their Assistance Unit's (AU's) cash aid amount.

Human Services Specialists (HSS) may also provide a TEMP 2250 to all new CalWORKs applicants who apply for aid in January 2014 through February 2014, to ensure that they are informed about the March 1, 2014 grant increase. **HSS is required to document in the case comments that the TEMP 2250 was provided and explained to the applicant.**

**Income
Reporting
Threshold
(IRT)**

Tier 2 IRT levels will also change effective March 1, 2014 as a result of the MAP increases. Therefore HSSs are required to send to recipients a new **SAR 2 - Reporting Changes for Cash Aid and CalFresh** or **AR 2 / AR 2 SAR - Reporting Changes for CalWORKs and CalFresh** or to inform them of their new IRT.

**Minimum
Basic
Standards of
Adequate Care
(MBSAC)**

The MBSAC levels are not subject to the five percent increase.

MBSAC levels are adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living. MBSAC adjustments are effective in July of each year and will be provided in a separate program material.

**CalFresh
Program
Impact**

CalFresh benefits of recipients who receive both CalFresh and CalWORKs shall be recalculated as a result of the increase in the cash grant. This action is considered Known-to-County information. The HSS will decrease the CalFresh allotment effective the first of the month for which timely notice can be provided to the household, as described in [CalFresh Program Guide 63-285.5 Public Assistance Grant Changes Mid-Period](#).

**Medi-Cal
Program
Impact**

No impact.

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**General Relief
(GR) Program
Impact**

The GR grant will increase by five percent effective March 1, 2014 in accordance to this increase. Instructions will be released in a future GRPG letter.

**Child Care
Program
Impact**

No impact.

**County
Medical
Services
Program
Impact**

No impact.

**Automation
Impact**

- The reference tables to reflect the necessary MAP levels (03/14) and IRT levels (03/14) have been updated with the CalWIN COLA run performed on February 8, 2014.
 - TM44-315G NOA to calculate the cash aid under the new MAP levels has been modified and it was generated for any case where EDBC was run during the COLA. The NOA will remain available for manual generation until March 31, 2014 in the event the HSS needs to re-run EDBC for any reason after the COLA or the case did not run due to a Pre-EDBC exception.
Required Action: If the HSS needs to run EDBC after the COLA for any reason (such as Restoration) the HSS will need to generate the TM44-315G manually.
 - The TEMP 2250 has been mailed to all active CalWORKs and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) households on February 4, 2014.
 - SAR 2, AR 2, AR 2 SAR to reflect the new IRT levels were generated as part of the COLA run.
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**ACCESS
Impact**

ACCESS Customer Service Agents may receive questions from callers requesting clarification on the CalWORKs changes. The agents shall provide information to callers regarding the regulations changes.

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Forms Impact The following notices are attached to this letter for reference:

- TEMP 2250 (1/14) - State Law Changes the Maximum Aid Payment Levels for Cash Aid Recipients
- TM44-315G (12/13) – Five Percent Grant Increase/Law Change

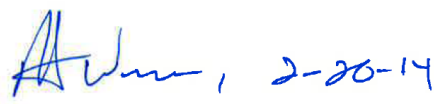
Document Capture Impact County Policy requires any manually-generated notice and/or forms signed by the client to be submitted for document capture. This includes any manual IRT notices generated outside of CalWIN.

Assistance Standards Chart The [Assistance Standards Chart](#) for CalWORKs has been updated with the new MAP and IRT levels. The chart is also attached to this letter.

Scratch Budget The Scratch Budget has been updated with the new MAP and IRT levels and been placed in the [ENTERPRISE\QR Excel Spreadsheet](#) folder on the shared “S” drive.

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

Manager Approval

 2-20-14

RICK WANNE, MA, MFT
Eligibility Operations Director

Manager Contact CalWORKs Program

RP

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