

February 21, 2014

CalWORKs Program Guide Letter No. 317

Subject **PREGNANCY SPECIAL NEEDS (PSN) FOR PREGNANT WOMEN WITH NO OTHER ELIGIBLE CHILD**

Effective Date January 1, 2013

Reference All County Letters (ACL) 14-04

Purpose To notify Family Resource Center (FRC) staff of expanded eligibility for pregnant women with no other eligible children.

Background An Assistance Unit (AU) with a pregnant woman and no other eligible child is referred as having a “pregnant woman only” (PWO) case. For PWO cases, there is no CalWORKs eligibility in the first and second trimesters of pregnancy unless there is eligibility to the Cal-Learn Program. A PWO who is eligible to Cal-Learn may be eligible to receive CalWORKs and also Pregnancy Special Need (PSN) payments any time after medical verification of pregnancy is provided, regardless if in the last trimester or not.

Summary of Updates The following sections have been loaded to the online CalWORKs Program Guide (CPG):

CPG Section	Title	Program Updates
10-020.A.2	Exemption Criteria	Sections updated to reflect the new regulations for PWO AUs.
10-020.A.13	Impacts to Individual Time Clocks	
15-000.B.2	CalWORKs Eligibility for Pregnant Teens with No Other Children	
41-500.F	Pregnancy Based Assistance Unit	
44-200.D	Pregnancy Special Needs	

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Changes to the CPG are noted with highlighted text.

Policy Change Effective January 1, 2013, a pregnant woman who is 18 years of age or younger, may be eligible for CalWORKs and PSN payments upon verification of her pregnancy, regardless of whether she is eligible for the Cal-Learn program.

Implementation instructions from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) were delayed due to challenges in attempting to identify this population for time-on-aid tracking requirements and the uncertainty of policy changes anticipated due to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or Covered California.

**Human
Services
Specialist
(HSS) Actions**

HSS's are required to review cases at intake, redetermination, and during processing of the SAR 7 to identify clients who may have been eligible for expanded eligibility (e.g. additional CalWORKs aid payments and PSN payments from the date of pregnancy verification) as outlined in this CPG letter. Upon determining that a client would have been eligible to receive CalWORKs and PSN, the HSS's are required to issue a supplemental payment in accordance with [CPG 44-350.K Underpayment](#).

Once a pregnant teen is added through these new regulations, they remain eligible based on the pregnancy until they become ineligible or the pregnancy ends. This is true even if the pregnant teen reaches her 18th birthday prior to her third trimester.

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Time on Aid (TOA) and Welfare-to-Work (WTW) Impacts

When determining eligibility for any cash supplement, the HSS is also required to review TOA and WTW participation requirements for this population.

When issuing a supplemental payment for any retroactive months, the HSS will not retroactively count any months on the 24-month clock, unless the teen was offered the full WTW opportunities and services. Clients who receive a retroactive supplement payment shall be granted good cause from WTW participation for the period between the time the client meet the new eligibility requirements and when regular CalWORKs was actually granted in the third trimester, if applicable.

Current WTW exemption rules will apply to this population, with regard to pregnancy and whether it prevents the woman from participating in WTW activities, as well as all other exemptions ([CPG 10-020.A](#)).

HSS and Employment Case Managers (ECMs) are reminded that the 24-month time clock never starts until the ECM has performed the comprehensive discussion and the individual has signed a WTW plan that identifies all the necessary supportive services ([CPG Letter No. 281](#), [CPG 10-001.E](#), [CPG 10-001.F](#)).

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**WTW
Participation
and Time Limit
Guide**

Refer to the following WTW Participation and Time Limit Guide to determine when to count the time clock months for this population:

Description/Type	WTW Exempt	24 Month time clock ticks ¹	48 Month time clock ticks	60 Month time clock ticks
18-year old pregnant individual with no other eligible children and a <u>high school diploma or equivalent</u> .	No ²	Yes ²	Yes ²	Yes
16- or 17-year old pregnant teen head-of-household with no other eligible child. <u>Has a high school diploma or equivalent</u> , and is not attending school.	No ²	Yes ²	N/A	Yes
16- or 17-year old pregnant teen head-of-household with no other eligible child. <u>Has a high school diploma or equivalent</u> , and is attending school.	Yes	No	N/A	Yes

Note: Aided minors are exempt from WTW if they are attending school full-time. This includes 18-year olds. Since the teen already graduated high school or obtained a GED, to maintain this exemption the teen must be attending a vocational or technical school.

¹ The clock shall not be applied retroactively, unless the pregnant teen was offered the full WTW opportunities and services.
² The WTW 24 month time clock can stop from ticking if the pregnancy impairs the woman's ability to be regularly employed or participate in WTW activities, but her CalWORKs 48 and TANF 60 month time clocks will tick. See [CPG 10-020.A Exemption from Welfare-to-Work](#) for additional information regarding when the 24 and 48-month time clocks stop due to disability.

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CalFresh Program Impact	No impact.
Medi-Cal Program Impact	No impact.
General Relief Program Impact	No impact.
Child Care Program Impact	No impact.
County Medical Services Program Impact	No impact.
Automation Impact	CalWIN changes to reflect these new regulations are scheduled to be updated in the near future.
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.
Forms Impact	No impact.
Document Capture Impact	No impact.
Quality Control Impact	Quality Control will cite the appropriate error when the regulations covered in the material have not been followed.
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**Manager
Approval**

Rick Wanne, 2-21-14

RICK WANNE, MA, MFT
Eligibility Operations Director

**Manager
Contact**

CaWORKs Program

RP

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