



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

June 5, 2015

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 15-52

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS
(CalWORKs): COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) INCREASE TO
THE MINIMUM BASIC STANDARD OF ADEQUATE CARE (MBSAC)
LEVELS

REFERENCE: WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS (W&I) CODE SECTIONS 11450, 11452,
AND 11453; [ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) No. 14-39](#)

MBSAC INCREASE

The purpose of this ACL is to inform counties of an increase to the CalWORKs MBSAC levels effective July 1, 2015. The W&I Code Section 11453 requires CalWORKs MBSAC levels to be adjusted annually to reflect any increases or decreases in the cost of living. The Fiscal Year 2015-16 COLA increases the MBSAC and Income-In-Kind (IIK) levels by 2.54 percent. 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, 2015.

The new CalWORKs MBSAC Payment Standards Chart for Regions 1 and 2 is attached to this ACL to assist in implementing these changes. The new IIK levels are included in this chart as these amounts also increased as a result of the MBSAC COLA.

If a County Welfare Department's (CWD's) Statewide Automated Welfare System is unable to implement the new MBSAC level in a timely manner for applicants by July 1, 2015, the CWD must take immediate steps to review and correct any

**REASON FOR THIS
TRANSMITTAL**

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

applications denied on or after July 1, 2015, if the sole reason for denial was failure to pass the applicant financial eligibility income test due to the MBSAC or IIK amounts used.

For existing recipients, the MBSAC COLA change is a county-initiated mid-period action; therefore, the new IIK amounts should be used prospectively as soon as timely and adequate notice can be provided.

REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE (RCA), ENTRANT CASH ASSISTANCE (ECA) AND TRAFFICKING AND CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TCVAP)

These implementation instructions for the MBSAC COLA and the IIK changes shall also apply to RCA, ECA and TCVAP (cash assistance and CalWORKs) applicants and recipients effective July 1, 2015.

CONTACTS

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this ACL, please contact the following California Department of Social Services representatives:

- CalWORKs Eligibility County Consultant (916) 654-1322
- CalFresh County Consultant (916) 645-1896
- Refugee Programs Bureau (916) 654-4356

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

Attachment

MBSAC Payment Standards

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Region 1 FY 2015-16

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
FY 2015-16 CNI 2.54%					
1	\$619	280	59	154	47
2	\$1,014	373	67	328	91
3	\$1,257	408	70	419	136
4	\$1,492	429	74	520	180
5	\$1,703	429	74	630	229
6	\$1,915	429	74	728	274
7	\$2,105	429	74	812	321
8	\$2,291	429	74	887	358
9	\$2,485	429	74	975	412
10	\$2,698	429	74	1,053	451
More than 10	Add \$24 for each extra person				

Region 2 FY 2015-16

Assistance Unit Size	MBSAC	Housing	Utilities	Food	Clothing
FY 2015-16 CNI 2.54%					
1	\$587	269	59	154	47
2	\$964	355	67	328	91
3	\$1,194	389	70	419	136
4	\$1,419	408	74	520	180
5	\$1,621	408	74	630	229
6	\$1,822	408	74	728	274
7	\$1,997	408	74	812	321
8	\$2,181	408	74	887	358
9	\$2,356	408	74	975	412
10	\$2,566	408	74	1,053	451
More than 10	Add \$24 for each extra person				