Cal**SAWS** | Information Transmittal (CIT)   **0196-20**

☐ **CalSAWS DD&I**	☒ **C-IV M&O**	☐ **CalWIN M&O**	☒ **LRS M&E**

Distribution Date:	September 24, 2020
To:	PPOC.40; Consortium.RegionalManagers.All; Committee.CalWORKs_CaFresh.All; Committee.FosterCare.All Committee.Medical_CMSP.All
CIT Name:	**CA-219676/CIV-107936 Treatment of Unemployment Benefits Under LWA and DUA**
From:	CalSAWS Project

PPOCs, please forward to the appropriate impacted staff in your county:

☐ General
☒ Policy
    ☒ CW
    ☒ CF
    ☒ MC
    ☒ CMSP
    ☒ FC/KG/AAP
    ☐ Child Care
    ☐ WtW
    ☒ Other Program(s): RCA,TCVAP,CAPI,GR
☐ C4Yourself   ☐ Your Benefits Now!
☐ Customer Correspondence
☐ Other_____

☐ Reports
    ☐ Fiscal
    ☐ Caseload Movement
    ☐ Management
☐ Fiscal
☐ Security
☐ Batch and Interfaces
☐ Imaging
☐ Migration
☐ Conversion
☐ Technical
☐ Training
☒ Help Desk

Description: (Including any step-by-step instructions)	**Purpose** The purpose of this CIT is to provide LRS and C-IV counties with interim guidance regarding the treatment of unemployment benefits received under the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Program and the separate Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). **Background** The following policy letters have been issued regarding the treatment of LWA and DUA: • ACWDL dated September 10, 2020 – Treatment of Unemployment Benefits Under the Lost Wages Assistance Program and Disaster Unemployment Assistance for Those Impacted by Widespread Fires in Multiple California Counties for CalFresh, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CALWORKS), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)/Entrant Cash Assistance (ECA), and the Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP),

- [ACWDL 20-16](#) - Information Regarding the Lost Wages Assistance Program, and
- [MEDIL I 20-28](#)- Information Regarding the Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program (Reference [Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter I 19-03](#)).

The California Employment Development Department (EDD) will begin issuing Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) supplemental payments of $300 per week for claimants who:
- Are currently eligible to receive at least $100 per week in unemployment benefits; and
- Have provided a self-certification that they are unemployed or partially unemployed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Based on the ACWDLs and CRPC 2221, LWA benefits are exempt from consideration as income for the purposes of determining eligibility and allotment/grant amounts for CalFresh, CalWORKs, RCA/ECA, TCVAP, CAPI, Medi-Cal (MAGI and Non-MAGI), and Foster Care. LWA is counted for Covered CA.

Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits have been approved for individuals who have been directly affected by recent wildfires in selected counties. The federal disaster declaration on August 22, 2020, provides DUA benefits for individuals who do not qualify for regular state unemployment insurance, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Federal-State Extended Duration (FED-ED) extensions, or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits. Like LWA benefits, DUA benefits are exempt for the purposes of determining eligibility and allotment/grant amounts for CalFresh, CalWORKs, RCA/ECA, TVCAP, CAPI and Foster Care programs. DUA is counted for Medi-Cal (MAGI and Non-MAGI) and Covered CA.

Note: LWA and DUA are also exempt for Los Angeles General Relief program.

Additional Information
Lost Wage Assistance (LWA) is not currently available in the system as an income type. Disaster Unemployment Assistance-DUA is currently available in the system as an Unemployment income type and is currently exempted in the systems for all programs. DUA is mapped in eHIT outbound as Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) and is counted in CalHEERS as unearned income for MAGI Medi-Cal and as taxable income for Covered California Programs. DUA is counted as unearned income for Non-MAGI.

CA-219676/CIV-107936 Treatment of Unemployment Benefits under LWA and DUA was opened to add LWA as an available income type in the income pages, under the Unemployment category, and to count the DUA income type for Medi-Cal (MAGI and Non-MAGI) and Covered CA.

1. As CalHEERS will not be updated for LWA and DUA until possibly November, SAWS will add a new Income Type of LWA to the Systems. This income type is exempt for all programs, except CoveredCA exchange programs. It will be mapped to Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC) for CalHEERS. This will allow for the LWA to be used in the Covered CA budgets correctly. The only negative impact is that the DER will show PUC for solicited DERs.

Workers can ignore the PUC income for MAGI. For unsolicited DERs, workers need to verify with the applicant what the income is for (ex. LWA) and update SAWS accordingly.

2. DUA will be counted as unearned income for MAGI and Non-MAGI and mapped to UIB for CalHEERS. Solicited DERs will show as UIB. When it's an Unsolicited DER, the worker will need to check with the applicant to know if the income is for UIB or DUA and update SAWS accordingly.

Note: The systems eHIT inbound and outbound mappings for LWA and DUA will be updated at the same time as CH-168469 with CA-219991 and CIV-107987.

County Action

Since LWA is exempt from all programs except for Covered CA, until CA-219676/CIV-107936 is implemented, counties should refrain from entering this income into the system. This change is tentatively scheduled for implementation on October 9, 2020.

Workers should complete the following for MAGI and Non-MAGI Medi-Cal and CoveredCA cases with LWA and/or DUA income until SAWS and CalHEERS system updates are released:

If customer has…	And is…	The worker should…
LWA income,	Potentially MAGI eligible,	• Not enter the LWA income under any Income Type (as it is exempt), and • Proceed with MAGI determination request as normal.
LWA income,	Potentially Non-MAGI eligible,	• Not enter the LWA income under any Income Type (as it is exempt), and • Run EDBC as normal.
LWA income,	Potentially CoveredCA exchange program eligible,	• Enter the Income Type of DUA for individual receiving LWA income • This will go over as UIB to CalHEERS in eHIT and be counted. • Proceed with MAGI Determination Request • Journal customer receiving LWA however income was entered as DUA in order to be sent in eHit.
DUA income,	Potentially MAGI eligible,	• Enter Income Type of DUA. • This will go over as UIB to CalHEERS in eHIT and counted. • Proceed with MAGI determination request

	DUA income,	Potentially Non-MAGI eligible (whole HH),	• Enter the Income Type of DUA • Complete a Non-MAGI manual budget counting the DUA as unearned income, and • Override EDBC, as appropriate.
	DUA income,	Potentially mixed MAGI/Non-MAGI HH,	• Enter Income Type of DUA, • Proceed with MAGI determination request, and • Complete a Non-MAGI manual budget counting the DUA as unearned income and override EDBC, as appropriate.
Primary Project Contact: (Name, phone number, email address)	*Questions can be sent back to* Communication@CalSAWS.org For CalFresh: Caroline Bui (916) 282-3668 BuiC@CalSAWS.org For CalWORKs: Sarah Cox (916) 851-3364 CoxS@CalSAWS.org For Medi-Cal: Elisa Miller (562) 651-2796 MillerE@CalSAWS.org For Foster Care: Ignacio Lázaro (916) 603-1402 lazaroi@calsaws.org For General Assistance/CAPI: Adelaide Mendoza (562) 484-7948 MendozaAD@CalSAWS.org		
Backup Project Contact: (Name, phone number, email address)	For CalWORKs/CalFresh: Binh Tran (562) 484-7955 TranB@CalSAWS.org For Medi-Cal: Nina Butler (562) 651-2747		

	ButlerN@CalSAWS.org For Foster Care: Michelle Ramos (562) 651-2729 RamosMR@calsaws.org For General Assistance: Caroline Bui (916) 282-3668 BuiC@CalSAWS.org
Attachments:	• CRPC 2221 EO: Treatment of LWA Unemployment Benefits • Unemployment Insurance Grid with LWA and DUA September 2020 Excel spreadsheet
Web Portal Link:	████ OR You may also retrieve the CIT document and attachments by following these steps: 1. Click on the CRFIs & CITs link at the top of the page. 2. Click on the "CalSAWS Information Transmittal (CIT)" folder. 3. Click on the "2020" folder. 4. Click on the appropriate CIT # folder.