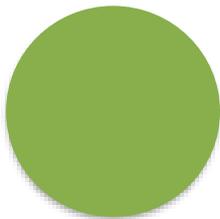


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**CalSAWS** | Policy Update



March 2024

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# Policy Update

## CalWORKs - ACL 24-XX – Cost of Living (COLA) Increase to Minimum Basics Standards of Adequate Care (MBSAC) and Income in Kind for 2024-2025

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS	Implementation Details
July 1, 2024  ACL Pending	<b>CA-257178</b> New Release 24.05 (Priority in June)	<p>The Fiscal Year 2024-25 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increases the MBSAC and IIK levels by 6.85 percent. The new MBSAC levels are to be used in determining applicant financial eligibility for families that apply for CalWORKs on or after July 1, 2024.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update the system with new MBSAC figures</li><li>• Update the system income in-kind values for CalWORKs and RCA with new figures</li><li>• Provide a list of cases with saved EDBC that have been denied due to failing the applicant financial eligibility test through MBSAC for benefit months May, June, or July 2024, and whose income is potentially below the new MBSAC amount.</li></ul> <p><b>Note:</b> A CIT will be published when the list is available.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform staff about the change to the MBSAC and IIK values and review the case on the on the list cases referenced in the CIT.</p>

# Policy Update

## CalWORKs – ACL 19-19&19-102 Increase the Threshold For CalWORKs Overpayments Phase II

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS	Implementation Details
<p>Upon Automation</p> <p><a href="#">ACL 19-19</a></p> <p><a href="#">ACL 19-102</a></p>	<p><b>CA-205172</b> Implemented Release 19.07</p> <p><b>CA-207051</b> Committee Review Release 24.05</p>	<p>Effective July 1, 2019, the CalWORKs overpayment threshold will be increased from \$35 to \$250. All other policy aspects of the CalWORKs overpayment threshold remain the same and County Welfare Departments (CWDs) are reminded that the overpayment threshold policy applies only to closed cases. Additionally, CWDs shall not demand collection of any non-fraudulent overpayments totaling less than \$250 from the responsible individual(s) if they are no longer aided in California under the CalWORKs program.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When all Responsible Parties have been off aid on the CalWORKs, RCA, WtW, REP or CalLearn program for 36 months, the system will discharge the remaining balance of any Recovery Accounts for that program.</li><li>• When a Recovery Account is discharged for the Responsible Parties being off aid for 36 months, the system will send a Delete Record to Welfare Intercept System (WIS).</li><li>• When a Recovery Account is discharged for the Responsible Parties being off aid for 36 months, the system will send an appropriate Notice of Action to inform the customer.</li></ul> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform staff about the system changes in this SCR.</p>

# Policy Update

## CalFresh - ACL 23-13 - EBT 2259- Revised Electronic Benefit Theft Replacement Policy

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS Status	Implementation Details
<p>3/2024 - Upon Automation</p> <p><a href="#">ACL 23-13</a></p> <p><a href="#">ACL 23-92</a></p>	<p><b>SCR CA-253426</b> Test Release 24.03</p> <p><b>CA-272907</b> Build Release RWR (March 2024)</p> <p><b>CA-273124</b> Pending Approval Release RWR (May 2024)</p> <p><b>CA 272707</b> Build Release RWR (March 2024)</p>	<p>The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, includes provisions for the replacement of SNAP benefits with federal funds if the benefits are stolen due to card skimming, cloning, scamming, and similar fraudulent methods. CDSS has modified established policies and procedures to align with federal regulations, therefore, replacing electronically stolen CalFresh benefits with federally funded food benefits</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b> <b>Note:</b> The Application Program Interface (API) references below, represent data sent to or received from BenefitsCal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update CalSAWS Forms API to allow the EBT 2259 and/or EBT 2259A to generate the form in PDF format.</li> <li>• Create an API that will save the EBT 2259 form details in the new EBT page(s). Create an automatic Journal Entry when a EBT 2259 and/or EBT 2259A form is received via the API.</li> <li>• Create an Automated Action when a EBT 2259 form is received from the Self-Service Portal to reissue a new EBT card.</li> <li>• Create new EBT page(s) in CalSAWS to display the EBT 2259 information entered by the worker or created through the Self-Service Portal API.</li> <li>• Update the following NOAs in English and Spanish to the latest State version:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WI 10072A - EBT Replacement Approval</li> <li>○ WI 10072B - EBT Replacement Review</li> <li>○ M44-350K - EBT Replacement Denial</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform county staff about the policy change in ACL 23-92 and system changes in SCR CA-253426.</p>

# Policy Update

## CalFresh - Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS Status	Implementation Details
9/1/2023  <a href="#">ACL 23-80</a>	<b>SCR CA-266312</b> Test Release 24.03  <b>SCR CA-215950</b> New Release 24.09  <b>SCR CA-228131</b> New Release 24.07	<p>On June 3, 2023, the President signed into law the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA), which enacts three new changes to the ABAWD time limit policy. These changes include gradually increasing the age of those subject to the ABAWD time limit, adding new exemption criteria, and limiting states' ability to accrue and carry over discretionary exemptions.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update the age limit requirements to gradually increase the age of those subject to the ABAWD time limit.</li><li>• Add new ABAWD requirements to exempt recipients that are:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Experiencing Homelessness</li><li>○ Veterans</li><li>○ Foster Youth</li></ul></li><li>• Update NOA message fragments for Time Limit Age Changes Updates to forms for Time Limit Age Changes</li></ul> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform county staff about the policy change in ACL 23-80 system changes in SCR CA-266312.</p>

# Policy Update

## CalFresh - ACL 21-25 New Definition of Public Assistance for CalFresh

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS Status	Implementation Details
<p>When automation occurs</p> <p><a href="#">ACL 21-25</a></p> <p><a href="#">ACL 22-85</a></p>	<p><b>SCR CA-223763</b> Implemented Release 23.07</p> <p><b>SCR CA-251869</b> Design Release 24.05</p>	<p>The CDSS has developed a new Public Assistance CalFresh (PACF) definition that distinguishes CalFresh households by public assistance program type and supports California's continued alignment with federal reporting expectations.</p> <p>The new definition of a PACF household broadly defines a PACF household as a CalFresh household in which members receive some type of public assistance in addition to CalFresh, including CalWORKs, Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), SSI/SSP, and General Assistance/General Relief (GA/GR). The term PACF functions as an umbrella term under which specific subcategories of PACF households fall.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Update the Case Summary page to display a Household Category field and no longer display the Public Assistance Indicator</li><li>2. Update the CalFresh Detail page to display Household Category and no longer display the Public Assistance Indicator</li><li>3. Update the CalFresh EDBC summary page to display Household Category and no longer display Public Assistance</li><li>4. Update Program Configuration [Override] List page to display Household Category and no longer display the Public Assistance Indicator</li><li>5. Update CalFresh EDBC logic to identify the household categories for CalFresh program</li></ol>

# Policy Update

## CalFresh - ACL 21-25 New Definition of Public Assistance for CalFresh

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS Status	Implementation Details
<p>When automation occurs</p> <p><a href="#">ACL 21-25</a></p> <p><a href="#">ACL 22-85</a></p>	<p><b>SCR CA-223763</b> Implemented Release 23.07</p> <p><b>SCR CA-251869</b> Design Release 24.05</p>	<p>6. Update Categorical Eligibility (CE) and Modified Categorical Eligibility (MCE) determination logic based on the new household categories.</p> <p>7. Create a new Household Category column for the Claim History table. This field will store PACF subcategory information for CalFresh program.</p> <p>8. Update Fiscal Claiming Batches to populate Household Category from EDBC to Claim History.</p> <p>9. Mass data change to copy the existing public assistance indicator values to the new household category column in the aid-code and EDBC tables.</p> <p>10. Update the CF 296, CF 358F and CF 358S</p> <p>11. Replace the DFA 256 with the CF 256 and update all corresponding back up reports.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This SCR is part of a phased approach to lay foundation and build history in preparation for implementing the revised CF reports. Existing reports will continue to be used and will be unaffected until SCR 251869 is implemented in January 2024.</p> <p><b>County Business Process Impact:</b> Inform staff about the changes to the policy and system.</p>

# Policy Update

## Foster Care - ACL 21-139 Tracking for Federally Eligible Children Whose Placement Does not Meet Federal Requirements

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS	Implementation Details
10/1/2021  <a href="#">ACL 21-139</a>	<b>CA-237399</b> Test Release 24.03	<p>Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Part IV amends the Title IV-E Foster Care program to limit the circumstances under which federal financial participation (FFP) may be used to support the foster care placements of an otherwise federally eligible child in certain types of child-care Institutions. The limitations include requirements of the facility, such as accreditation, as well as the assessment, documentation, and judicial determination requirements for placement into the facility.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Added a QRTP Determination section to the Child Placement Detail page to track:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ QI Assessment</li><li>○ Court Approval</li><li>○ Accreditation</li></ul></li><li>• Created a new QRTP Determination page that will allow users to create QRTP records.</li><li>• Updated the Transaction History Detail page and the Deleted Records Detail page to track the QRTP Determination record.</li><li>• Added a soft validation message that displays on Run EDBC, when applicable, to inform Users that the QRTP Determination has not been added.</li><li>• Update EDBC to set the Sub Type Code field on the Aid Code based on the assessment and accreditation of the placement.</li></ul> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform staff about this new policy and applicable system changes.</p>

# Policy Update

## Foster Care - ACL 21-123 Expectant Parent Payment

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS	Implementation Details
January 1, 2022  <a href="#">ACL 21-123</a>	<b>CA-231834</b> Implemented Release 23.07  <b>CA-263119</b> Build Release 24.05	<p>ACL 21-123 introduces an expectant parent payment for pregnant minors and nonminor dependents (NMDs) three months prior to the expected due date, in accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 153. This payment will be in addition to the infant supplement payment which begins the month of birth.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Add a new Placement Type Expectant Foster Youth to indicate the expectant parent payee on the Foster Care Resource Detail page</li><li>2. Add a new Need Type Expectant Parent Payment to the Need Detail page.</li><li>3. Add a new Pay Code Expectant Parent Payment that will be selectable on the foster care EDBC. Counties will use this pay code to identify these payments.</li></ol> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform staff about the system changes to issue the expectant parent payment.</p>

# Policy Update

## Medi-Cal - Home/Community-Based Services and Spousal Impoverishment Provisions

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS Status	Implementation Details
<p>1/1/2024</p> <p><a href="#">ACWDL 17-25</a></p> <p><a href="#">MEDIL 122-08</a></p>	<p><b>SCR CA-207655</b> Implemented Release 23.11</p> <p><b>SCR CA-241932</b> Design Release RWR (June)</p>	<p>The Affordable Care Act (ACA) broadened the definition of an institutionalized spouse. The new definition allows for a broader and more immediate application of the spousal impoverishment provisions for those receiving Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). The spousal impoverishment provisions allow the community spouse to retain more income and resources upon submission of a Medi-Cal application for an institutionalized spouse or a spouse who requests HCBS.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The System will track Medi-Cal (MC) Waivers on the Customer Options data collection page and no longer in a Requested Medi-Cal Type.</li><li>• Medi-Cal budgets will be created in the system to apply Spousal Impoverishment Provisions when a MC program person is requesting or eligible to 'Home and Community-Based Services Waivers'.</li><li>• The MC EDBC Rules will first evaluate for Full MC Hierarchy (Mega Mandatory and MAGI Medi-Cal), then evaluate Spousal Impoverishment with the new MC test Programs Aged and Disabled-SI, Working Disabled-SI and MC Income-SI.</li><li>• Apply a Data Change Request (DCR) to individuals associated to a removed Waiver from 'Requested Medi-Cal Type Detail' page and moved to an associated Medi-Cal Waiver in the 'Customer Options Detail' page. A list of cases were not processed in the DCR will be provided for the counties to action.</li></ul> <p>For additional details on this change, refer to the SCR design document.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform staff about the changes to the policy and system. Action the cases that could not be processed in the DCR.</p>

# Policy Update

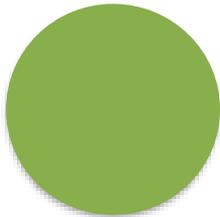
## Medi-Cal - Suspension of Medi-Cal Benefits for Incarcerated Beneficiaries

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS Status	Implementation Details
<p>1/1/2023</p> <p><a href="#">ACWDL 21-22</a></p> <p><a href="#">ACWDL 22-26</a></p> <p><a href="#">MEDIL 22-40</a></p>	<p><b>SCR CA-217940</b> Test Release 24.03</p> <p><b>SCR CA-241995</b> Test Release 24.03</p> <p>SCR CA-220264 Build Release RWR (March 2024)</p>	<p>SB 184 extends the suspension of Medi-Cal benefits for adult inmates to remain in effect for the duration of their incarceration, as long as they remain otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal and ends the suspension on the date the individual is no longer an inmate of a public institution.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update EDBC rules to not allow negative actions or non-compliance reasons to be applied to an incarcerated beneficiary, unless they are no longer eligible for Medi-Cal.</li><li>• Update the existing batch process that sends out MAGI, Non-MAGI, and Mixed Household RE packets to exclude a program from receiving a packet if all active members receiving MAGI or Non-MAGI aid codes are incarcerated.</li><li>• Update Non-MAGI EDBC Sweep to exclude processing any case where all active members are on a Non-MAGI aid code, and at least one active member is Incarcerated.</li><li>• Create a new batch job (Non-MAGI only) to process negative action for failed to complete redetermination at an individual for cases that have at least one active member that is Incarcerated; the incarcerated individual will be renewed.</li><li>• Create a new EDBC Batch Sweep job to auto-renew programs for which all active members are on a Non-MAGI Aid Code and all active members are Incarcerated.</li><li>• Add MC 0466A and MC 0466F to the System</li></ul> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform staff about the changes to the policy and system.</p>



# **System Change Requests**

Supporting Continuous Coverage Unwinding Activities



# Continuous Coverage Unwinding Activities

## MEDIL I-22-01 Federal COVID PHE Additional Contact Requirement

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS	Implementation Details
<p>End of Continuous Coverage</p> <p><a href="#">MEDIL I 22-01</a></p>	<p>CA-250600 New Release 24.03</p>	<p>If the beneficiary has not returned the annual renewal forms or has not otherwise provided all the requested information during the 60 days after the annual renewal form is sent, counties shall attempt to contact the beneficiary to request the needed information. As a best practice, counties are recommended to contact the beneficiary at least 30 days after sending the annual renewal form when no information has been received. This additional contact is being required as part of ongoing strategies to ensure individuals retain enrollment after the federal COVID-19 PHE ends.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Turn off the second Medi-Cal (MC) reminder notice batch job.</li><li>• Update the following batch jobs to no longer look for the second Medi-Cal reminder notice:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Batch MC Discontinuance Sweep</li><li>○ Non-MAGI Discontinuance Sweep</li><li>○ Failure to Provide FFY turning age 26 packet</li></ul></li><li>• Turn off the Non-MAGI Screening Packets(NMSP)logic to send NMSP during renewal even if a NMSP was sent for the same Soft Pause</li></ul> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> <b>None</b></p>

# Continuous Coverage Unwinding Activities

Turn off Batch PHE Protections at conclusion of Continuous Coverage Unwinding

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS	Implementation Details
<p>End of Continuous Coverage</p> <p><a href="#">MEDIL I 20-06</a></p> <p><a href="#">MEDIL I 23-02</a></p>	<p>CA-255279 Design Release 24.05</p>	<p>MEDIL I 23-02 is to inform counties of updated federal legislation that provides an end date to the continuous coverage requirement enacted as a result of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) federal Public Health Emergency.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Turn off the Batch EDBC protections during the PHE entirely effective 07/01/2024</li><li>• Turn on mandatory Verification batches</li><li>• Update the Non-MAGI Screening Packets(NMSP) to no longer generate during RE when is not new</li></ul> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform staff about the changes in this SCR.</p>