



CalSAWS | Policy Update



May 2024

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# Policy Update

## CalWORKs – ACL 23-83/ SB 1083 Homeless Assistance Additional at-Risk Populations

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS	Implementation Details
July 1, 2024  <a href="#">ACL 23-83</a>	<b>CA-262845</b> Test Release 24.05	<p>Effective July 1, 2024, SB 1083 expands Homeless Assistance (HA) eligibility to additional at-risk populations by including families in receipt of any notice that could lead to an eviction, regardless of the circumstances cited in the notice.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add a new reason type of “Notice that could lead to eviction” for the Homeless Assistance Detail – Temporary data collection page.</li><li>• Add a new reason type of “Notice that could lead to eviction” for the Homeless Assistance Detail – Permanent data collection page.</li><li>• Add validations to the Homeless Assistance Detail – Temporary and Homeless Assistance Detail – Permanent page when the begin date is before July 1, 2024.</li><li>• Update Homeless Temporary/Homeless Permanent (HT/HP) EDBC rules to grant benefits to an applicant when “Notice that could lead to eviction” in the dropdown is selected.</li></ul> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform staff about the change to the homeless assistance Permanent and Temporary rules to support the policy in ACL 23-83.</p>

# Policy Update

## CalWORKs – ACL 23-30 Paid Family Leave Time Limit Exemption

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS	Implementation Details
<p>October 1, 2024</p> <p><a href="#">ACL 23-30</a></p>	<p><b>CA-253759</b> Test Release 24.05</p>	<p>Effective October 1, 2024, AB 2300, which also amends WIC Section 11454.5, any month in which a CalWORKs (CW) recipient receives Paid Family Leave (PFL), the CW benefit is exempt from counting towards the CalWORKs time limit. The PFL time limit exemption must be applied from the month in which the PFL benefits are effective to the month in which the PFL benefits are scheduled to end.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adds a Paid Family Leave (PFL) income type to CalSAWS and configures treatment of this income type across different programs</li><li>• Adds a new CalWORKs time limit exemption type for Paid Family Leave</li><li>• Adds new good cause status reasons for WTW and REP</li><li>• Task Management – Add Paid Family Leave Income Exemption Automated Action.</li><li>• Task Management – Add Paid Family Leave Income Exemption Automated Action Batch Job.</li></ul> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Decide if the county wants to use the Paid Family Leave Income Exemption Automated Action. If the county chooses to activate this automated action, they will need to select the applicable Task Type.</p>

# Policy Update

## CalWORKs – ACL 23-93 Exempt Child Support Income Types for Case with Aid Codes K1 & 3F

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS	Implementation Details
July 1, 2024  <a href="#">ACL 23-93</a>	<b>CA-265202</b> Test Release 24.05 (priority before July 1, 2024)	<p>Effective July 1, 2024, AB 207 requires that any amount of child support collected must be passed through to a former recipient of California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), and that any amount of child support received by a family currently aided under the K1 or 3F aid codes be exempt from consideration as income or resources when determining CalWORKs eligibility or grant amount.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Update the CalWORKs (CW) EDBC beginning in the July 2024 benefit month to exempt all child, spousal, family income types when the CW assistance unit (AU) has aid code K1 or 3F.</li><li>2. Provide the counties a list of cases where CW EDBC might return a different benefit calculation after the change in this SCR is implemented.</li></ol> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform staff about the exemption of child, spousal, family income types when the CW assistance unit (AU) has aid code K1 or 3F. Review the cases on the list referenced in #2, a CIT will be provided.</p>

# 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 (Tentative 6/6/24)	<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> Test 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

## CalWORKs – ACL 24-XX Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) Increase to the Minimum Basic Standards of Adequate Care (MBSAC) and Income In Kind (IIK) 2024-2025

Policy Effective Date & State Policy Reference	CalSAWS	Implementation Details
July 1, 2024  ACL 24-XX	<b>CA-257178</b> New Release 24.05 (priority 6/6/24)	<p>The Fiscal Year 2024-25 COLA increases the MBSAC and IIK levels by x.xx 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, 2024.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS Update:</b> Update the system with new MBSAC figures. The previous year's values will be end-dated to 6/30/2024 and the new values will have a begin date of 7/01/2024 and an end date of 12/31/9999.</p> <p>Update the system with the new IIK values for CalWORKs and RCA with new figures. The previous year's values will be end-dated to 6/30/2024 and the new values will have a begin date of 7/01/2024 and an end date of 12/31/9999.</p> <p>Provide a list of cases with saved EDBC's 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.</p> <p><b>CalSAWS County Business Impact:</b> Inform staff about the MBSAC and IIK increase and the updates to the system to support this increase.</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>	<p><b>SCR CA-266312</b> Implemented Release 24.03</p> <p><b>SCR CA-215950</b> Ready for Committee Release 24.09</p> <p><b>SCR CA-228131</b> New Release 24.07 (Priority in September)</p>	<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> Test 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> <p>-Continued on the next slide-</p>

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## 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> Test 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 21-123 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> Test Complete 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 (May 2024)</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>