

CalSAWS Buzz



**COMING
SOON**



BCR is Coming Soon

Volume 7 Issue 2 In this Newsletter:

Summer is here and we hope you're taking some time to enjoy the sunshine and warm weather.

Our new CER to Business Case Request (BCR) evolution is under construction! The Q&A document from the first PPOC awareness session has been distributed, and we introduced the Business Case Request form at the second PPOC session on May 29th. Next, we'll look at the BCR submission timeline, how BCR presentations and prioritization will occur within our Project Steering Committee (PSC), and how BCR research will occur within dedicated workgroups. Updates to the CalSAWS Handbook will be taken to our JPA over the next few months, and communications are planned for many avenues, including our June Conference, via CIT and more!

Keep a look out for the next phases of construction, coming your way soon!

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The Six CalSAWS Regions

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Project Steering Committee	7/17/2025
	8/21/2025
	9/12/2025

Joint Powers Authority	7/18/2025
	8/15/2025
	9/18/2025

CalSAWS Annual Conference	6/26/2025 -
	6/27/2025

R4 Regional Meeting - Held Virtually	7/22/2025
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R6 Management Site Visit	8/22/2025
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From Customer Engagement

Greetings from Customer Engagement!

I recently watched a video where Michelle Gielan (author of Broadcasting Happiness) stated, "We are all Broadcasters". What's a broadcaster? A broadcaster is someone who delivers information/facts to those around them. Like most of you, I first thought of a News Broadcaster; however, all of us share information with each another constantly throughout our day, whether verbally, social media posts, posture/facial expressions, or that daily crawl to the coffee pot at the office. As she said that, a lightbulb appeared above my head. I had never thought about it that way. We all face challenges in our daily lives and taking a positive approach and broadcasting that positivity can help get us through.



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We need to take a hands-on approach to change and tell ourselves, "I can overcome any obstacle", "I will focus on a solution", and "I am open to learning new things and experiencing growth." So, when you get that 70-page design document to review, or a UEID after a release, resist those negative thoughts or emotions and instead remind yourself to focus on a solution (and log that ticket!) and know it's a temporary obstacle you will overcome.

This has us asking ourselves, and we encourage you to consider:

What will you broadcast today?

CalSAWS Learning Exchange Sessions

Upcoming CLE Sessions

June 2025	Imaging	6/3/2025 & 6/5/2025
August 2025	BenefitsCal	8/20/2025 & 8/21/2025
October 2025	ABAWD	Dates TBD

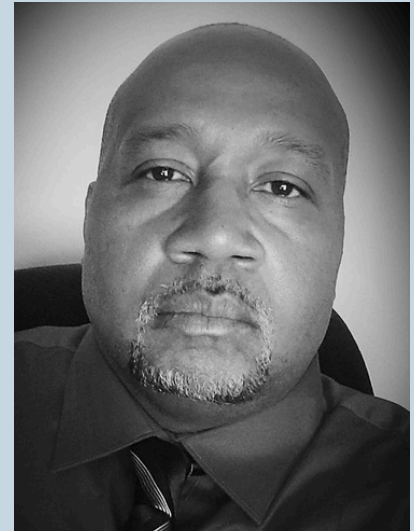




Meet our New BenefitsCal Section Director

We're happy to announce our new BenefitsCal Director, Frederick Gains.

Frederick is a seasoned public service professional with over 25 years of experience in social services and systems analysis. He began his career in 1998 with the San Bernardino County Transitional Assistance Department.



In 2005, he joined the Consortium IV (CIV) team where he played a key role in Release Management, Systems Testing. His insight and expertise positioned him as a trusted contributor to the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), where he actively participated in the County Advisory Team (CAT) and Child Care Committees.

Frederick played a pivotal role as a Lead Systems Business Analyst during CalSAWS migration. In 2024, he promoted to Manager in the same section.

As the BenefitsCal Director Fred will follow in the footsteps of Lynn Bridwell to foster strong partnerships, collaboration, and ensure that BenefitsCal remains user-centered, accessible, and aligned with our collective vision of better service delivery.

Please join us in welcoming Fred, we are very excited for him to step into his new role.

BenefitsCal Update

Beginning July 1, 2025, BenefitsCal will serve as the only online platform for submitting CalFresh applications. This is to streamline online access to public benefits. The GetCalFresh application portal will retire June 30, 2025.

As the end of June approaches, it is time to update CalFresh outreach materials to ensure customers are aware of the change and any internal processes/scripts to no longer include GetCalFresh. Review CIT 0070-25 for additional information.

The GetCalFresh application portal will display a redirect notice on the GetCalFresh homepage, beginning July 1, 2025. The GetCalFresh domain and subpages will remain active beyond September 30, 2025.

Upcoming Releases

	June	July	August	September	October
CalSAWS Release		25.07 - 7/21/2025		25.09 - 9/22/2025	
BenefitsCal Release	25.06 - 6/26/2025	25.07 - 7/25/2025	25.08 - 8/28/2025	25.09 - 9/25/2025	25.10 - 10/30/2025
CalHEERS Release	25.06 - 6/16/2025			25.09 - 9/22/2025	

2025 Release SCR Tracker

Release	SCR	Production Defects	Total
25.05	70	88	158
25.03	64	94	158
25.01	78	78	156
Totals	212	260	472

Communications

- 0041-25** CA-228414 – List of Cases for CalFresh Earned Income Exemption Rules for Student Under 18
- 0043-25** CalSAWS SFY 24-25 Second Quarter County Share Adjustment
- 0050-25** 2025 Case Data Removal Identification and Override Reports for April 2025
- 0052-25** CA-289103 RCA and TCVAP Cash Assistance Time on Aid Updated to 4 months From 12 Months
- 0053-25** CalSAWS Inter County Transfer (ICT) Protocol
- 0055-25** Reduction of the Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Eligibility Period
- 0057-25** Updated CalSAWS Hardware Specification and Recommendations for Windows 11
- 0058-25** 2025 Case Data Removal Batch Run May 2025
- 0061-25** Scheduled Downtime Notification – 6/1/2025
- 0062-25** Contact Center – Calabrio – Update Whitelist Domains/Update Smart Desktop Client
- 0064-25** CA-219304 - List of Cases for CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program
- 0065-25** CalSAWS Project SFY 2024-25 v3 County Reallocations
- 0066-25** Recruitment of CalSAWS Foster Care Business Analyst Closing on June 27, 2025
- 0067-25** Scheduled Downtime Notification – 6/15/2025
- 0070-25** Get CalFresh Application Assistance Tool Retiring: Transition to BenefitsCal by July 1, 2025
- 0071-25** Scheduled Downtime Notification – 6/27/2025
- 0072-25** Scheduled Downtime Notification – 6/29/2025





New Assistance for Refugees in Los Angeles County



The Refugee Employment Program (REP) introduced the Refugee Housing Support Program (RHSP), as part of a commitment to supporting refugee resettlement in Los Angeles County. This program provides direct housing and utility assistance to eligible refugees and asylees, ensuring they have access to safe and stable accommodations during their transition.

What is RHSP?

The California Department of Social Services, Refugee Programs Bureau developed the RHSP to provide services to refugees actively participating in REP. RHSP is funded with federal Refugee Support Services base funds and available until funds are exhausted or September 30, 2026, whichever is sooner.

Eligible Populations: Newly arrived refugees and other Office of Refugee Resettlement populations who arrived on or after October 1, 2024. Asylees whose asylum was granted/approved on or after October 1, 2024.

What Assistance is Available?

RHSP provides up to six months of support covering 50 percent of the monthly rental and utility costs, capped at \$10,000 for the cumulative six-month period per eligible household. Additionally, the program allows for full payment of initial security deposits to help refugees secure housing.

Implementation:

REP providers staff will utilize the existing HAU issuance payment procedure in CalSAWS to streamline RHSP operations, ensuring quick and efficient support for eligible individuals.

REP is proud to roll out this vital program as part of our ongoing efforts to foster welcoming communities for refugees.