



Design

CA-253355

Update Income Multiplier for CalWORKs/CalFresh at Intake

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CA-253355 – Update Income Multiplier for CalWORKs/CalFresh at Intake

1 OVERVIEW

'Weekly' and 'Every Other Week' income frequencies are calculated with a multiplier to average out the income amounts across a reporting period. This SCR updates the EDBC logic for CalWORKs and CalFresh programs so that 'actual' reported income is counted, and income multipliers are not applied during the benefit month (BDA month at intake), when the income frequency is 'Weekly' or 'Every Other Week' and if the income is not Reasonably Anticipated Income (RAI) and is expected to end.

1.1 Current Design

In CalWORKs (CW) and CalFresh (CF), at intake when an income frequency is 'Weekly' or 'Every Other Week' and spans the period, the income amounts are averaged, and a multiplier (4.33 for Weekly and 2.167 for Every Other Week) is applied.

1.2 Requests

Update EDBC logic so that for CalWORKs and CalFresh programs, the actual reported income received must be used in benefit calculations during intake, and income multipliers are not applied when the income frequency is "Weekly" or "Every Other Week" and the income is not considered Reasonably Anticipated Income (RAI).

1.3 Overview of Recommendations

1. Update EDBC logic for CalWORKs and CalFresh so that reported 'actual' income should be counted, and the multiplier should not be included in the calculation for the benefit month when an income frequency is 'Weekly' or 'Every Other Week, income 'New Change Reason' is 'Intake' and the income record is end dated when processing an intake single or multi-month application.

1.4 Assumptions

1. The update to EDBC income multiplier logic for CalWORKs and CalFresh programs is applicable to all income categories and types.
2. The income is not considered Reasonably anticipated Income (RAI) when the income record has an end date.
3. Retain existing income multiplier logic for all other income scenarios.
4. CRPC 2408 and CRPC 2437 clarified how the income multiplier should be used for when an individual's income ends.
5. The SCR changes are not applicable on how we calculate for the CalWORKs Applicant Financial Eligibility Test.

6. This SCR change will apply to initial intake applications, intake reapplications or denial rescind only, not for ongoing cases.
7. There is no effective date for the changes added with this SCR. A re-run of a past EDBC may result in a benefit change. There will be no impact to SCR CA-224521.
8. When adding an income record for an initial intake application, intake reapplication or denial rescind applications, the user will need to select the 'New Change Reason' of 'Intake'.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 [Page Name] No Impact

2.2 Update Eligibility Rules

2.2.1 Overview

Modify EDBC logic for CalWORKs and CalFresh programs so that, during the intake BDA month, income multipliers are not applied, and actual reported income is used when the income is not considered Reasonably Anticipated Income.

2.2.2 Description of Changes

1. Update EDBC Income calculation to not average and not apply a multiplier and use the reported income amount value entered on Income Detail page when all the following are true:
 - a. Program is CalWORKs or CalFresh.
 - b. Income frequency is "Weekly" or "Every Other Week".
 - c. Income record includes an end date (Income is not RAI).
 - d. Income New Change Reason is 'Intake'.

2.2.3 Example Scenarios

Note: The scenarios below are not requirements. They are intended to help with understanding and testing and may reference items that are not being changed by the specific language in the requirements.

Case Scenario 1: Current Intake Processed with Income Ending in Application Month (Non-RAI)

- Application Date: August 22nd, 2025 (Intake)
- Income Frequency: Weekly
- Income received:
 - 08/01/25 - \$100
 - 08/08/25 - \$200

- 08/15/25 - \$100
- 08/22/25 - \$200
- 08/29/25 - \$100
- The customer has received all 5 paychecks for the month of August. The customer informs the county that their employment has ended in the same application month.

Current Behavior: A weekly income multiplier (4.33) is applied by the system if the end date is entered as of 8/29/2025.

Proposed Behavior: Multiplier should not be used as the income has ended and is no longer considered reasonably anticipated income. The actual reported income received should be used for benefit calculation.

Case Scenario 2: Intake Processed (Non-RAI) with Income Ending in Current Month (Non-RAI)

- Customer applies for CW and CF benefits on 09/15/2025 being processed in current month October 2025 (10/23/2025).
- Income Frequency: Weekly
- Income received: Customer reported their current income of \$300 weekly is ending on 10/30/2025. An income record is created with a 'New Change Reason' of 'Intake' and a frequency of 'weekly' for reported amount of \$300 with a begin date of 9/5/2025 and an end date of 10/30/2025.
- EDBC is ran for multi-month for 09/2025 (BDA month), 10/2025 (current month) and 11/2025 (come up month).

Current Behavior: The current functionality averages and applies a multiplier for the income calculation in the CW and CF earned income budget for both 9/2025 and 10/2025 benefit months.

Proposed Behavior: The income spans the entire 09/2025 BDA month and multiplier should be used but since the income ends on 10/30/2025 and cannot be considered RAI, the updated functionality will use the reported 'actual' income amount value for the income calculation in the CW and CF earned income budgets for the 10/2025 month without averaging or using the multiplier.

Case Scenario 3: Rescind Intake Processed with Income Ending in the following Month (Non-RAI)

- Customer applies for CF benefits on 02/20/2025 (current month)
- Income Frequency: Every Other Week
- Income Received: Customer reported amount of \$2000 per pay period. for the month of February.
- On the March 7th, the intake application was denied for failure to provide proof of income.

- The customer provides the income on the March 20th. In the month of March, they reported their income would reduce to \$1,200 per pay period which is expected to end on 03/29/2025 due to a temporary position.
- The intake application is rescinded for the original application date.

Current Behavior:

The current functionality averages and applies a multiplier for the income calculation in the CF earned income budget for both 2/2025 and 3/2025 benefit months.

Propose Behavior:

EDBC is ran for multi-month. For the month of February multiplier will be used, however the case will be denied due to 'Over Income' reason. Since the income ending on 03/29/2025, it cannot be considered RAI, and the updated functionality will use the reported 'actual' income amount value for the income calculation in the CF earned income budget for 03/2025.

2.2.4 Programs Impacted

CalWORKs
CalFresh

2.2.5 Performance Impacts

N/A

2.3 [Batch Name] No Impact

2.4 [Interface Name] No Impact

2.5 [eHIT] No Impact

2.6 [Form/NOA Name] No Impact

2.7 [Report Name] No Impact

2.8 [Data Warehouse Name] No Impact

2.9 [Data Change] No Impact

2.10 [Automated Regression Test] No Impact

3 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

N/A

4 OUTREACH

N/A

5 APPENDIX

N/A