

CalSAWS

California Statewide Automated Welfare System



Design

CA-253355

Update Income Multiplier for CalWORKs/CalFresh

DOCUMENT APPROVAL HISTORY

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CA-253355 - Update Income Multiplier for CalWORKs/CalFresh

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 the CalWORKs and CalFresh programs to ensure that reported income is counted as 'actual' income. The income multipliers will not be applied during the benefit month when the income frequency is 'Weekly' or 'Every Other Week,' when it is not considered Reasonably Anticipated Income (RAI), and when it is expected to end.

1.1 Current Design

In the CalWORKs (CW) and CalFresh (CF) programs, during both intake and ongoing scenarios, when the income frequency is "Weekly" or "Every Other Week" and when the income is ending, the income amounts are averaged, and a multiplier (4.33 for Weekly and 2.167 for Every Other Week) is applied on few scenarios.

1.2 Requests

Update EDBC logic so that, for the CalWORKs and CalFresh programs, actual reported income is used in benefit calculations during both intake and ongoing scenarios. 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).

The scenarios below provide clear distinctions in system behavior:

- a. Intake (CalWORKs and CalFresh): If the income is ending in current or come-up month, use actual reported income regardless of frequency ("Weekly" or "Every Other Week") whenever the Change Reason is "Intake".
- b. CalWORKs ongoing: If the income is ending, use actual reported income regardless of income frequency ("Weekly" or "Every Other Week") or whether all paychecks were received.
- c. CalFresh ongoing: If the income is ending, apply the multiplier only if all paychecks have been received; otherwise, use actual reported income.

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, and the income record is end dated when processing an intake or ongoing scenarios.

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 frequencies and when the income is considered Reasonably anticipated Income.
4. CRPC 2408, 2437 and 2453 clarified how the income multiplier should be used for when an individual's income ends.
5. Existing functionality of the CalWORKs Applicant Financial Eligibility Test remains unchanged. The SCR changes are not applicable, and there is no impact to this calculation.
6. 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.
7. When EDBC is run for the first time, it is treated as an Intake application. All pending months included in that initial EDBC run whether a single month or multiple months are processed together as part of the Intake.
8. Whenever the Change Reason is set to "Intake," EDBC applies intake-specific logic, even if the calculation is executed during an ongoing period.
9. There will be no changes to mid-period rules since the income is not reasonably anticipated income and is beneficial to customers.
10. There are no impacts to other programs not included in this SCR.

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 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 to use the actual reported income value entered on the Income Detail page when the income frequency is Weekly or Every Other Week and the income record includes an end date (income is not RAI). However:

- a. During intake for both CalWORKs and CalFresh, if the income is ending, use actual reported income regardless of income frequency ("Weekly" or "Every Other Week") and when the income 'New Change Reason' is 'Intake'.
- b. CalWORKs (CW) ongoing: If income is ending, use actual reported income regardless of income frequency ("Weekly" or "Every Other Week") and regardless of whether all paychecks were received and when the income 'New Change Reason' is not 'Intake'.
- c. CalFresh (CF) ongoing: If income is ending and, use the multiplier if all paychecks have been received, and use actual income if all paychecks have not been received for both "Weekly" or "Every Other Week" income frequency and when the income 'New Change Reason' is not 'Intake'.

2.2.3 Example Scenarios

Note: The following scenarios 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.

Intake Scenarios

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

- Application Date: August 21st, 2026 (Intake)
- Income Frequency: Weekly
- Income received:
 - 08/01/26 - \$100
 - 08/08/26 - \$200
 - 08/15/26 - \$100
 - 08/22/26 - \$200
 - 08/29/26 - \$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 8/29/2026.

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 for both CalWORKs and CalFresh Programs.

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

- Customer applies for CW and CF benefits on 09/15/2026 being processed in the current month October 2026 (10/12/2026).
- Income Frequency: Weekly
- Income received: Customer reported their current income of \$300 weekly is ending on 10/09/2026. 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 9/4/2026 and an end date of 10/09/2026.
- EDBC ran for multi-month for 09/2026 (BDA month), 10/2026 (current month) and 11/2026 (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 9/2026 benefit month and actual reported income will be used for the October month since the income is ended.

Proposed Behavior: The income spans the entire 09/2026 BDA month, and multiplier should be used but since the income ends on 10/09/2026 and cannot be considered RAI, the updated functionality will continue to use the reported 'actual' income amount value for the income calculation in the CW and CF earned income budgets for the 10/2026 month without averaging or using the multiplier.

Ongoing Scenarios:

Case Scenario 3: Ongoing CW/CF process with Income Ending in the Current Month (Non-RAI)

- Ongoing CW/CF case where customer reported mid-period on December 18, 2026.
- Income Frequency: Weekly
- Checks received:
 - 12/04/26-\$100
 - 12/11/26-\$200
 - 12/18/26-\$100
 - 12/25/26-\$200 Last check
- Job ended December 18, 2026. Last Check will be received on December 25, 2026.
- Customer received all the checks for the month of December.
- The worker run EDBC on 12/29/26 for multi-months of 12/2026, 01/2027, 2/2027.

Current Behavior: The current functionality uses the actual reported income for the December month as the income ended.

Proposed Behavior:

CalWORKs – For 12/2026, the actual reported income will be used in the budget and supplement will be issued. For 01/2027, no income will be used, and a supplement will be issued. For 02/2027, a new benefit amount will be issued with no income used.

CalFresh- For 12/2026, the multiplier will be used in the budget, and no supplements will be issued. For 01/2027, no income will be used, and a supplement will be issued. For 02/2027, a new benefit amount will be issued with no income used.

Case Scenario 4: Ongoing CW/CF case with Income Ending in the current month

- Customer reported on late 12/2026 SAR7 that he stopped working as of 01/21/27.
- Last check received was on 01/21/27 (first month of the payment period)
- Income Frequency: Every other week
- Checks received:
 - o 11/12/26 - \$300 – SAR7 Data month
 - o 11/26/26 - \$300 – SAR7 Data month
 - o 12/10/26 - \$300
 - o 12/24/26 - \$300
 - o 01/07/27 - \$300
 - o 01/21/27 - \$300 – last check
- Customer received all the paychecks in November, December and January
- The worker ran EDBC on 1/22/2027 with SAR7 reason for multi-month of 01/2027 and 02/2027

Current Behavior: A every other week (2.167) income multiplier is applied by the system for both December and January month.

Proposed Behavior: Multiplier should be used in December as the income has not ended and is considered as reasonably anticipated income. January is expected to use multiplier since the income is ending in the current month but received all of their paychecks for CalFresh program. However, for CalWORKs, we will be using actual reported income.

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