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CalWORKs Grant Status

The CDSS executive summary of the 2020-2021 May Revised budget states: “The CalWORKs budget includes a couple of notable grant increases. The MAP increase that went into effect October 1, 2019, was benchmarked at bringing an Assistance Unit (AU) of one (regardless of region or exempt status) at or above 50 percent of the 2019 federal poverty level and increasing all other AU sizes by an average of 10.8 percent.

“The 2020-2021 Governor’s Budget projects sufficient Child Poverty and Family Supplemental Support Subaccount funds for a 3.09 percent MAP increase, effective October 1, 2020, for all AUs. This increase results in MAP levels of \$567 per month for an AU of one and \$905 per month for family of three without income. With this MAP increase, AU sizes of one will be at 54 percent and all other AU sizes will be at 51 percent of the 2019 federal poverty guidelines.”

THANK YOU GOVERNOR NEWSOM!

During the 2020-2021 May Revised Budget press conference, the Governor said, “...we want folks to know that we’re not going to touch the grant enhancements for CalWORKs.” We want to publicly thank the Governor for not attacking CalWORKs like many previous governors have done in the past.

This sounds good, but it is simply not true. In fact, the 3.09% COLA coming October 1, 2020 will indeed increase the maximum aid payment to 50% of the federal poverty level for Region 1 and for a family of one in Region 2, but only for 37% of the families. **See counties of Region 1 and 2 below.** A majority of the CalWORKs children, 63%, will receive a CalWORKs grant which is below 50% of the federal poverty level in California after October 1, 2020. **See Table #1** for more caseload details.

Table # 2’s first part (37%) shows how much a CalWORKs family will get being aided for all family members. The 63% part of the table show that three persons family will get a payment for a two person family because they are in the 63% group for being CalWORKs sanctioned, CalWORKs penalized, CalWORKs timed out, etc.

The fact is that most CalWORKs families will be enduring deep poverty, notwithstanding the incorrect insistence of some that CalWORKs families with children are no longer enduring deep poverty. They are. We must work hard to make sure that no child in California is enduring deep poverty. We have a long way to go.

T a b l e #1	37% of the CalWORKs Caseload					63% of the CalWORKs Caseload				
	Total Caseload for Feb. 2020-CW 237	Two Parent	Single Parent	Families Receiving Aid for All Family Members	%	Parent not Aided Cases	TANF Timed-Out	Sanctions/ Alleged Fleeing Felons	Receiving Aid for 1 or more less family members	%
	363,982	24,734	111,458	136,192	37%	112,352	23,149	92,289	227,790	63%

(Cont’d on page 2)

(Cont'd from page 1)

Table #2 - Do the 2019 - 2020 CalWORKs Grants Exceed 50% of the Federal Poverty Level Today?

37% of the CalWORKs cases						63% of the CalWORKs Cases					
		Region # 1		Region # 2				Region # 1		Region # 2	
Persons	2020 federal poverty level	2020 CalWORKs MAP	%	2020 CalWORKs MAP	%	Persons	2020 federal poverty level	2020 CalWORKs MAP	%	2020 CalWORKs MAP	%
1	\$ 1,063	550	52%	520	49%	2	\$ 1,437	550	38%	520	36%
2	\$ 1,437	696	48%	661	46%	3	\$ 1,810	696	38%	661	37%
3	\$ 1,810	878	49%	834	46%	4	\$ 2,183	878	40%	834	38%
4	\$ 2,183	1060	49%	1007	46%	5	\$ 2,557	1060	41%	1007	39%
5	\$ 2,557	1242	49%	1180	46%	6	\$ 2,930	1242	42%	1180	40%
6	\$ 2,930	1424	49%	1353	46%	7	\$ 3,303	1424	43%	1353	41%
7	\$ 3,303	1606	49%	1526	46%	8	\$ 3,677	1606	44%	1526	42%
8	\$ 3,677	1788	49%	1699	46%	9	\$ 4,050	1788	44%	1699	42%
9	\$ 4,050	1970	49%	1872	46%	10	\$ 4,423	1970	45%	1872	42%
10	\$ 4,423	2152	49%	2044	46%	11	\$ 4,796	2152	45%	2044	43%

Will the 3.09% Increase in CalWORKs Grants Exceed 50% of the Federal Poverty Level Effective October 1, 2020?

37% of the CalWORKs cases						63% of the CalWORKs Cases					
		Region # 1		Region # 2				Region # 1		Region # 2	
Persons	2020 100% federal poverty level	2020 CalWORKs MAP	%	2020 CalWORKs MAP	%	Persons	2020 100% federal poverty level	2020 CalWORKs MAP	%	2020 CalWORKs MAP	%
1	\$ 1,063	\$ 567	53%	\$ 536	50%	2	\$ 1,437	\$ 567	39%	\$ 536	37%
2	\$ 1,437	\$ 718	50%	\$ 681	47%	3	\$ 1,810	\$ 718	40%	\$ 681	38%
3	\$ 1,810	\$ 905	50%	\$ 860	48%	4	\$ 2,183	\$ 905	41%	\$ 860	39%
4	\$ 2,183	\$ 1,093	50%	\$ 1,038	48%	5	\$ 2,557	\$ 1,093	43%	\$ 1,038	41%
5	\$ 2,557	\$ 1,280	50%	\$ 1,216	48%	6	\$ 2,930	\$ 1,280	44%	\$ 1,216	42%
6	\$ 2,930	\$ 1,468	50%	\$ 1,395	48%	7	\$ 3,303	\$ 1,468	44%	\$ 1,395	42%
7	\$ 3,303	\$ 1,656	50%	\$ 1,573	48%	8	\$ 3,677	\$ 1,656	45%	\$ 1,573	43%
8	\$ 3,677	\$ 1,843	50%	\$ 1,751	48%	9	\$ 4,050	\$ 1,843	46%	\$ 1,751	43%
9	\$ 4,050	\$ 2,031	50%	\$ 1,930	48%	10	\$ 4,423	\$ 2,031	46%	\$ 1,930	44%
10	\$ 4,423	\$ 2,218	50%	\$ 2,107	48%	11	\$ 4,796	\$ 2,218	46%	\$ 2,107	44%

Region 1 Counties:

Alameda,
Contra Costa,
Los Angeles,
Marin,
Monterey,
Napa,
Orange,
San Diego,
San Francisco,
San Luis Obispo,
San Mateo,
Santa Barbara,
Santa Clara,
Santa Cruz,
Solano,
Sonoma, and
Ventura.

Region 2 Counties:

Alpine,	Modoc,
Amador,	Mono,
Butte,	Nevada,
Calaveras,	Placer,
Colusa,	Plumas,
Del Norte,	Riverside,
El Dorado,	Sacramento,
Fresno,	San Benito,
Glenn,	San Bernardino,
Humboldt,	San Joaquin,
Imperial,	Shasta,
Inyo,	Sierra,
Kern,	Siskiyou,
Kings,	Stanislaus,
Lake,	Sutter,
Lassen,	Tehama,
Madera,	Trinity,
Mariposa,	Tulare,
Mendocino,	Tuolumne,
Merced,	Yolo, and
	Yuba.