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CCWRO Welfare News - April 2026 Edition

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In Brief

SB 1415 - CalWORKs: permanent housing assistance Implementation Delayed Pending Automation - Senate Bill (SB) 1415, which was effective 1/1/26 but has yet to go into effect. CDSS Homeless and Housing Division will be publishing an All-County Letter (ACL) with guidance pertaining to SB 1415 . Under SB 1415, regular income received from government, nonprofit housing and homeless subsidy programs and private sources will be a required inclusion to a family's Total Monthly Household Income (TMHI) for purposes of determining eligibility for CalWORKs Permanent Housing Assistance (PHA).

Deleting a CW 71 form from CalSAWS Costs $116,064 and will take 9 months. – CalSAWS released SAWS Estimation Request for Research and Analysis (SCERFRA) # 26-903 relative to SB 1030, which will repeal the current CalWORKs Unrelated Adult Male income reporting requirement for certain CalWORKs families. The SCERFRA states that SB 1030 will impact automation and will cost $116,064 to achieve this automation and it will take a whole nine (9) months to do so. The SCERFRA makes no mention of what automation needs to be done. This is automation money that will go into the chauffeurs of Deloitte who according to Going Concern reported, Deloitte was among firms that subsequently donated to Republican lawmakers who had voted to overturn the 2020 presidential election results.

AB 1755 SCERFRA wants $218,500 for Unnecessary IT Changes- On March 6, 2026, CalSAWS completed a response to CDSS request for possible IT costs that Deloitte will want for AB 1755, which simply repeals that 100-hour rule for CalWORKs two-parent applicants. In red is what CalSAWS said they need to do and our analysis of whether automation is even needed.

Scope –

1.
2.

3. Update to Unemployment Deprivation page to remove this reason
4. of deprivation.
5.
6. **CCWRO Response:**
7. This is not necessary to mplement AB 1755,
8.
9.

It is a deprivation factor that workers no longer must use.

2. Update EDBC logic to not look for/apply this reason of deprivation.

CCWRO Response: This is not necessary to implement AB 1755.

It is a deprivation factor that workers no longer must use.

3. Update A723 NOA verbiage to no longer include the 100 hour work rule in Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, English, Farsi, Hmong, Korean, Lao, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

   CCWRO Response: We cannot find A723 NOA. The 100-hour NOA is M41-440G. These NOAs will no longer be used. There should be no IT cost to tell workers not to use the 100-hour denial NOA because the 100-hour rule has been repealed

4. Update M41-440F NOA verbiage to no longer include the 100-hour work rule in English, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese

   CCWRO Response: The 100-hour NOA M41-440F no longer be used. There should be no IT cost to tell workers not to use the 100-hour denial NOA because the 100-hour rule has been repealed.

5. Update MC 210 S-W form verbiage to no longer include the 100-hour work rule in English and Spanish.

CCWRO Response: The 100-hour NOA MC 210S-W no longer be used. There should be no IT cost to tell workers not to use the 100-hour denial NOA because the 100-hour rule has been repealed.

6. Update MC 340 NOA verbiage to no longer include the 100-hour work rule in English and Spanish

   CCWRO Response: The 100-hour NOA MC 340 no longer be used. There should be no IT cost to tell workers not to use the 100-hour denial NOA because the 100-hour rule has been repealed.

7. One-time list of impacted cases to apply removal of deprivation reason.

   CCWRO Response: This is a false activity based on a false assumption that the 100-hour rule impacts continuing cases. It does not. It will only affect new applications when AB 1755 is effective 1/1/27.

AB 1655 SCERFRA wants $0.5 million to do what? SCERFRA 26-900, released early March 2026 by CalSAWS, stated that AB 1655 will cost $500,000 thousand for Hyland Software contractor of CalSAWS can do something called "ex.imaging" that will take 120 hours to complete , which is $4,167 per hour. This is just as bad as the several thousand-dollar Pentagon toilet seat story. What is CalSAWS ex. imaging? The SCERFRA provides no explanation of what needs to be imaged.

EBT All County Letter Coming Soon - An All-County Welfare Directors Letter will soon be issued to notify CWDs of the final activities related to the Chip EMV/Tap EBT cards. The letter will include details on the statewide deactivation of remaining magnetic stripe-only cards, outreach recommendations, and guidance for handling replacement cards distributed during mass card replacement efforts.

CDSS Contracts MEF Associates to analyze opportunities to leverage flexibility - has been retained by CDSS to do a report on CalWORKs Landscape Analysis project. The initial project planning meeting was held on 2/23.

MEF will conduct a comprehensive analysis of federal mandates (and flexibilities) along with an analysis of administrative and statutory procedures where CA regulations introduce additional requirements not federally mandated. MEF will provide recommendations around opportunities to leverage flexibilities and areas for program improvement.

CDSS Hosting a County Only Workgroup to redesign the HVP 19 form - - The CalWORKs HVP (Home Visiting Program) hosted two HVP 19 (an automated reporting form used by California counties to track new enrollments and data for the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program) Redesign Workgroup meetings on February 19th and 26th. The purpose of each meeting was to collect feedback from county staff on the draft of the redesigned form.

It was these kinds of "closed workgroups" that changed the DPA 482 form through ACL 18-121 to hide the number of IEVS reports received by the county and the number of IEVS reports not processed within the federally required 45 days. Now counties are no longer accountable for sitting on unreported income for months and years generating large overpayments that when collected by counties, counties get a 15% bounty per W&IC section 11486(j). In State Fiscal Year 2025-2026 counties are estimated to get a $32.5 million bounty according to the CDSS budget estimate binder, page 58.

The CDSS will analyze the county feedback and finalize revisions to the draft version of the form, which will be sent for stakeholder review in the near future.

CalWORKs Client Satisfaction Survey Launched - CDSS recently launched the CalWORKs Client Satisfaction Survey (CSS) Dashboard. It is available on the Cal-OAR Dashboard, accessible through the Client Satisfaction Survey tab. The dashboard presents the same data currently provided to counties through the quarterly PDF reports, also now in an interactive and user-friendly format. The dashboard allows users to: View quarterly CSS results in an interactive format, explore data more efficiently across reporting periods, access CSS information directly alongside other Cal-OAR data and compare county and state data. The data highlights variations in client experiences related to service access, communication, and overall satisfaction, helping identify both high-performing areas and opportunities for improvement. We encourage counties to review the new CSS tab on the Cal-OAR dashboard and incorporate this tool into their ongoing analysis and program improvement efforts.

USPS postmark issue - At the January CWDA Self-Sufficiency meeting the USPS postmark issue was discussed, (Effective December 24, 2025, the USPS implemented a new rule officially stating that postmarks apply when mail is processed at a regional center, not when collected.) The postmark date doesn't always reflect the day an item was dropped off, but rather the date it was processed. With 10-day deadlines, CDSS may need to reconsider when and how they send notices. This issue has been elevated in CW/CF and to CalSAWS, and RADD is reviewing whether changes are needed. No answer yet, but we're hoping for an update soon. We hope to hear from CDSS Research, Automation and Data Division (RADD) soon.

FEDERAL UPDATE

Hunger, Housing, Homelessness, Education & Healthcare:

Proposed FY 2027 Budget

On April 3, 2026 the President released his FY 2027 budget, reflecting the overwhelming priority to increase military spending at the expense of basic needs programs , including SNAP, affordable housing and homeless assistance. Specifically, the budget would allocate $1.5 trillion in funding, including a 28% increase overall from FY 2026 and a 44% increase in the Department of War, which includes funding for an increase in shipbuilding, munitions and missiles. The following summary is from our national partners, including the Food Research & Action Coalition [FRAC], the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

FOOD INSECURITY

The following is a summary of FRAC's analysis of Trump's FY27 budget:

Supplemental Food & Nutrition Program: SNAP

The proposed budget includes a reduction in funding from $107.5 billion to $101.2 billion. This reduction results from fewer expected benefits issued, less state administration funds from $6.2 billion to $3.2 billion, no contingency for fiscal year (FY) 2027, and no funds allocated for SNAP online purchasing and technology improvements. It also maintains a reduced personnel budget, dropping from $82 million in FY 2025 to $56 million.

Women, Infants & Children [WIC]:

The budget includes a cut to WIC through slashing the cash value benefit that supports the purchase of fruits and vegetables for pregnant and postpartum individuals and their children. This cut would severely limit WIC households' ability to purchase fruits and vegetables at a time when food prices are increasing. WIC participants currently receive $26 for children and between $48 and $52 for pregnant and postpartum individuals each month to purchase fruits and vegetables. The president's budget calls for a return to the cash value benefit level established prior to the 2024 WIC food package rule, which was only $9 for children and $11 for adults.

Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer [Summer EBT]:

The proposed budget includes a reduction in funding for the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (Summer EBT) Program of $591 million for benefit dollars (equating to benefits for approximately 4.9 million children) and $94 million in administrative funding for state operations.

Child Nutrition Programs:

The proposed budget also includes cuts to discretionary spending that has historically supported implementing and improving the child nutrition programs nationwide. This includes eliminating school meals equipment grants ($10 million), eliminating funding for the Institute of Child Nutrition ($1 million), and cutting Farm to School discretionary funds ($5 million).

Summer & Afterschool Meals:

For the second year in a row, the proposed budget eliminates funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), the only federal funding stream for summer and afterschool programming.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The following is a summary of the full analysis of the HUD FY 2027 budget by the National Low Income Housing Coalition:

Work Requirements & Time Limits on HUD- Assisted Households:

The President's budget request would impose work requirements and time limits on households receiving HUD rental assistance, and replace the existing community service requirement so that non-exempt individuals would have to perform an average of at least 20 hours of approved work activities per week. The request would also establish a five-year limit on assistance. Both provisions would include exemptions for children under 18, adults over 62, people with disabilities and primary caretakers for people with disabilities, students, and veterans receiving HUD-VASH assistance “who are actively participating in any mental health, substance abuse, rehabilitation, or recovery program prescribed or recommended by a Department of Veterans Affairs medical professional or case manager.”

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance:

The President’s budget request includes a $608 million increase ($35.56 billion total) for the renewal of Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) contracts, which includes HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. While a positive change from the massive cuts to rental assistance programs continued in the FY26 budget, the budget request also includes language that would prohibit Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) from issuing “any new vouchers or otherwise [assisting] new families,” including through Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs), “except vouchers for HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) and the family unification program.”

Public Housing:

The proposal would provide flat funding of $3.2 billion for HUD’s public housing capital needs, including flat funding for emergency and disaster grants ($30 million), but would not include funding for Residential Health Hazards Grants, which received $50 million in the final FY26 spending bill.

Native Housing:

The President’s FY27 budget request would make significant cuts to housing and community development programs serving Native communities. The request would cut funding for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program by $239 million from FY26, for a total of $872 million.

Project-Based Rental Assistance:

The budget request would provide $17.6 billion for Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) contract renewals, a decrease of $903 million from the FY26 spending bill.

Section 202 & Section 811:

HUD's Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program, which funds affordable, accessible housing for older adults, would receive $959 million in the President's FY27 budget request, a $72 million decrease from Congress's FY26 spending bill for HUD programs.

The Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities program, which funds affordable, accessible housing and supportive services to ensure people with disabilities can live in communities rather than institutional settings, would receive $266 million in the budget request, a $21 million decrease from the FY26 appropriations bill.

Eviction Protection Grant Program:

The Eviction Protection Grant Program (EPGP) would not receive funding in the President's FY27 budget request; the request would also cancel $20 million in unobligated EPGP funding, compared to the $7.5 million in fy26 funding to help communities ex[and legal assistance to households facing or at-risk of eviction.

Community Development Funds:

The FY27 budget request would not fund programs under HUD's Community Development Fund, including CDBG [Community Development Block Grant].

HOME Investment Partnership Program:

The HOME program, which Congress provided with $1.25 billion in FY26, would not receive funding under the President's FY27 budget request.

Fair Housing:

The budget request would make significant cuts to programs under HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, including zeroing out the Fair Housing Initiatives Program

(FHIP), which provides grants to state and local fair housing organizations to conduct fair housing testing, investigations, education, and outreach.