



CalWORKs Maximum Family Grant Rule Ends Children Denied Aid Will Be Eligible Starting January 1, 2017

Starting January 1, 2017, children denied help in the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program will now get cash aid. Under the Maximum Family Grant (MFG) rule, children born into a family that was already receiving aid in the CalWORKs program before the baby was born have been denied cash aid. Because of this rule, 130,000 babies and children do not get cash aid in CalWORKs and their families get a lower grant. **This will change on January 1, 2017.** Here is how this rule will impact your family:

Changes in Your Family's CalWORKs Benefit

- If a child (or children) in your family was denied aid because of this rule, you will get a higher CalWORKs grant starting January 1, 2017.
- Because your cash aid will go up, it may be that you will have a slight drop in your CalFresh benefit.
- You will receive a Notice of Action for any changes in your CalWORKs or CalFresh benefit before the change.

You Can Stay on Aid if You Are Pregnant

- If your family has a new baby on the way, the baby will receive aid after January 1, 2017.
- Some families try to keep their babies from being denied aid because of the MFG rule by going off of aid during pregnancy. Families where someone is currently pregnant will no longer need to make a decision between going off aid or getting aid for the infant, if born.

You May Have New Child Support Reporting Requirements

- If a child in your family does not get cash aid because of the MFG rule, you currently do not have to report information for Child Support collection. This will change.
- Starting January 1, 2017, parents will have to report information for child support collection to the county office for all children who will begin getting aid through CalWORKs.
- New child support reporting may not apply to people who have been abused. Ask your worker for information about child support reporting rules for victims of abuse.

What Do You Do To Make Sure Your Child Will Now Get Aid?

- If you have a child who did not get aid because of the MFG rule, your monthly CalWORKs grant should go up automatically on January 1, 2017. You should get a Notice of Action showing your new benefits amount. If this does not happen, contact your worker. Make sure they have this letter: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/PG4889.htm>

About Western Center on Law and Poverty: Western Center on Law and Poverty works to ensure that low-income Californians can easily access safe and affordable housing, adequate health care, and safety net services. For more information about the Repeal of the Maximum Family Grant visit www.wclp.org or contact Jessica Bartholow, jbartholow@wclp.org