

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
Eligibility Policy and Procedures Guide**

Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE)

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Effective Date:

07/01/2018

Background:

The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986 mandates that the immigration status of each non-citizen applicant/recipient must be verified with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as a condition of eligibility for CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

Purpose:

This section is being revised to consolidate the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement (SAVE) policies for CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) and General Relief (GR) under Eligibility Policy and Procedure Guide (EPPG).

Policy:

IRCA requires the use of an automated system to verify Satisfactory Immigration Status (SIS) provided by an alien applicant/recipient. SIS clarifies the immigration status that entitles an otherwise eligible alien to CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

USCIS has designated the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system to verify each non-citizen's immigration status. The SAVE system is an information sharing system consisting of a primary and secondary verification system. SAVE transactions will not occur in CAPI or GR cases as there is no federal funding involved. CAPI and GR cases with a companion federal program must use the information from the SAVE in determining eligibility.

Primary SAVE Verification

The primary SAVE system is used to verify the immigration status of non-citizens with an alien (A) number. If the primary verification response does not state that the non-citizen is in SIS, the secondary verification is mandated.

- The SAVE abstract should indicate one of the five following responses from USCIS:
 - Legal Permanent Resident – Employment authorized
 - Cuban/Haitian Entrant – Temporary employment authorized
 - Section 245A Temporary Resident – Temporary employment authorized
 - Section 210 Temporary Resident – Temporary employment authorized
 - Institute Secondary Verification

The first four SAVE responses indicate SIS. The third and fourth responses identify the alien as an IRCA alien. IRCA aliens may receive full-scope benefits if they are under 18 years of age, aged, blind, or disabled.

- SAVE Verification for Refugees:
Refugees usually apply for assistance soon after they enter the United States; it is unlikely that their immigration status will be on the SAVE system database yet. Therefore, most primary requests for refugees will indicate "Institute Secondary Verification."

A federal waiver was granted to allow a delay in the processing of secondary SAVE verification for refugees who are applying for CalWORKs, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), CalFresh and Medi-

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Cal benefits for 12 months, unless their refugee documentation is questionable or appears fraudulent. For those refugees where SAVE secondary verification was indicated but was not submitted at the time of application:

- Set up a reminder to institute a primary SAVE process in 12 months
- Resubmit the “A” number through CalWIN no more than 12 months from the month of certification.
- Institute a secondary verification if the primary SAVE response indicates to do so

County Medical Services (CMS) does not have access to the primary automated system therefore the SAVE Secondary Verification is used.

Secondary SAVE Verification

The secondary verification system is an e-SAVE system for verifying an alien registration number and non-citizen information. A SAVE secondary verification is required under the following circumstances:

- The SAVE primary response is “Institute Secondary Verification”.
- The USCIS documentation does not contain an “A” number.
- There are discrepancies between the primary response and the USCIS documentation presented by the applicant.
- The A-number is in the 60000000 or 70000000 series which, according to USCIS, have not been issued
- The A-number is in the 80000000 series, which is used for illegal border crossings
- The document is a USCIS receipt
- The alien presents a foreign passport containing an I-181 or I-94 form, which is over one year old with the statement “Processed for I-551, Temporary Evidence of Lawful Permanent Residence”
- The alien presents an I-688 or I-689 with an A-number in the 90000000 series. These documents pertain to amnesty applicants and require special handling.
- The original USCIS documentation appears to be altered or counterfeited.
- A sponsored non-citizen in a CAPI and GR case.

Procedures:

- PRUCOL determination: CAPI Desk Aid 99-101.2C, EOPG: SAVE Secondary Verification

Program Impacts:

- CalWORKs: CalWORKs Program will obsolete section CPG 42-400.J (SAVE) and refer Eligibility staff to this EPPG instead.
- CalFresh: Updated the following sections: CFPG 63-157 Sponsored Noncitizens; Processing Guide 117-01; Processing Guide 157-01.
- Medi-Cal: Revised MPG Sections 7.3.2 & 7.3.3.
- County Medical Services (CMS): Updated CMSPG 05.04.04 Alien Status Verification
- CAPI: Revise CAPI PG Sections 99-101.2 & 99-101.3
- General Relief: Revised GRPG Sections 90-100.9, 90-200.3, & 90-200.4.

References:

- All County Letters (ACLs) No: 06-60, 17-73

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 07/31/2021.

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Approval for Release:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Wanne", followed by the date "6-22-08".

Rick Wanne, Director
Eligibility Operations