Revision Date:
June 1, 2022

Background:
An Assistance Unit (AU) with a pregnant person and no other eligible child is referred to as an AU of One or a Pregnant Person Only (PPO) AU. A PPO may be eligible to receive CalWORKs and Pregnancy Special Need (PSN) payments, any time after medical verification of pregnancy is provided.

Purpose:
The purpose of this program guide section is to define the requirements to establishing a PPO AU. The purpose of this material revision is to incorporate changes concerning eligibility criteria for CalWORKs aid for PPOs. Effective July 1, 2022, PPOs age 19 or older are eligible at any stage during their pregnancy and will no longer be required to wait until their second trimester to be eligible for CalWORKs.

Policy:
AU of One - PPO Applicant
An AU of one can be established when a PPO meets all the following conditions:

• Deprivation for the unborn is established
  o Deprivation for the unborn child must be determined, as if the unborn were a child (CPG 41-400)
  o If deprivation does not exist, the application must be denied

• Medical verification of the pregnancy has been provided
  o If unable to provide medical verification of pregnancy, the PPO will be allowed to submit a sworn statement, signed under penalty of perjury, to verify the pregnancy for aid and allow the pregnancy special need (PSN) payment (CPG 44-200.C)
  o The sworn statement must include the PPO’s name, date of application, the declaration of pregnancy and the expected date of delivery
  o If unable to provide a sworn statement, a verbal attestation (when NICE InContact is unavailable) will be accepted, ensuring the conditions under which the PPO is eligible are documented in case comments
  o Medical verification of pregnancy must be submitted within 30 business days following submittal of the sworn statement, or verbal attestation, for benefits to continue
  o Upon the expiration of the 30-day period, aid must continue if the PPO presents evidence of good-faith efforts to obtain and submit the medical verification
  o If the medical verification is not submitted within 30 business days and there is no evidence of good faith efforts to comply, aid will be discontinued at the end of the month of the 30-day period with timely and adequate notice
  o Should benefits continue beyond the end of the month of the 30-day period, an overpayment will be established for any subsequent aided months the PPO failed to comply
  o Should circumstances preclude the PPO from obtaining the necessary documentation on their own, staff will assist the PPO, when it has been determined the PPO has made every attempt necessary to obtain the documentation, as outlined under CPG 22-000.B
• The pregnant person (and unborn child, if when born would be living with the PPO) would be eligible for CalWORKs
• The pregnant person cannot be included in another AU
  
  **Example:** a pregnant 17-year-old, living with their parents who are receiving CalWORKs for other children, is an eligible child on the parents’ case, therefore, the 17-year-old cannot be aided in an AU of one

**Eligibility for PPO**
A PPO may qualify for CalWORKs upon verification of their pregnancy, as defined above. Once a PPO is aided, they remain eligible based on the pregnancy until they become ineligible or the pregnancy ends.

**Note:** Cal-Learn program eligibility for teens will be evaluated and a referral made if appropriate. Refer to CPG 40-200.B, CPG 15-000.C and CPG 15-000.D.

**End of Pregnancy Reporting Requirements**
If the pregnancy ends prior to the estimated delivery date, not resulting in the birth of a child, the PPO is required to report verbally or in writing, within 30 days following the end of their pregnancy. Aid will discontinue, with timely and adequate notice, at the end of the month following the month in which the loss was reported.

Prior to discontinuing aid, the PPO will be provided with information about, and referral to, mental health services, including, but not limited to, services provided by the Health and Human Services Agency, when appropriate.

If the PPO fails to report the loss within 30 days and benefits continued, overpayments will be established for any subsequently aided months the PPO failed to comply.

**Pregnancy Special Need (PSN)**
In addition to the basic grant for the PPO meeting the criteria above, a PSN payment can be authorized for the duration of the pregnancy upon verification of pregnancy, as defined above. (CPG 44-200.C).

**Immediate Need and Homeless Assistance**
PPO who are unable to provide medical verification of pregnancy at application will be allowed to provide a sworn statement, or verbal attestation (when NICE inContact is unavailable), to be determined apparently eligible for Immediate Need and Homeless Assistance.

**Newborn Placed in Foster Care**
When a baby is born mid-period and immediately taken from the PPO by Child Welfare Services and placed in Foster Care, the case will be discontinued mid-period as a county-initiated action at the end of the month in which the baby is placed in Foster Care, as the customer no longer has a CalWORKs eligible child in the home. (CPG 44-270.I.1.g).

**Unaided Second Parent**
When the second parent of the unborn is living in the home at application, the application based on pregnancy is for the “family” (filing unit) that includes the pregnant person, the unborn, and the second
parent. The second parent is excluded from the AU by law until the baby is born (CPG 41-500.E). The second parent’s income and property are considered in the eligibility and grant determination.

Adding the Newborn and the Second Parent of the Newborn to the AU

Upon notification of the birth of the child, eligibility for the newborn and second parent, if applicable, must be established prior to adding the newborn and the second parent to the AU. Refer to the following sections under CPG 44-270.H for additional information:

- Newborns
- Adding the Newborn and the Second Parent to the PPO Case

**Procedure:**
none

**Program Impacts:**

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP)

RCA and TCVAP programs follow CalWORKs administrative rules with certain exceptions. CalWORKs program regulations apply to financial eligibility and payments for the RCA program, unless specifically superseded by RCA regulations. Unless otherwise provided, TCVAP customers will be provided cash assistance under the same conditions and to the same extent as the RCA program.

Although RCA and TCVAP are intended for families without children, pregnant applicants, with no other eligible children, are eligible to apply for the CalWORKs program at any time during their pregnancy and are subject to the same medical verification requirements as CalWORKs customers.

**General Relief**

Persons in their first trimester of pregnancy will no longer be eligible to General Relief because they will now have linkage to CalWORKs (GRPG 90-500.2.M / General Relief Processing Guide 90-500.2A).

**References:**
- EAS 44-211.6, 82-836
- ACLs No. 14-04, 15-38, 21-134, 21-140
- ACINs No. I-03-20, I-16-20

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by June 30, 2025.

**Approval for Release:**

[Signature]

6-14-22

Rick Wanne, Director
Self-Sufficiency Services