Revision Date:
June 1, 2022

Background:
In addition to the monthly CalWORKs grant, a Pregnancy Special Need (PSN) payment will be authorized for all eligible pregnant persons who have provided verification of pregnancy. This payment is intended to provide for the extra needs of an aided person during pregnancy.

Purpose:
The purpose of this program guide section is to define the requirements to authorize the PSN payment. The purpose of this revision is to implement changes to the PSN amount. Effective May 1, 2022, the monthly PSN payment increases from $47 to $100. Also, effective July 1, 2022, Pregnant Person Only (PPO) age 19 and older are eligible at any stage during their pregnancy and do not have to wait until their second trimester to be eligible for CalWORKs and PSN.

Policy:

PSN Payment
Effective May 1, 2022, a PSN payment is $100 per month. The amount is not increased when multiple births are expected. A PSN will be issued when verification of pregnancy is received, and the pregnant person is aided as a member in one of the following Assistance Units (AU):

- Pregnant Person Only (PPO)
- Pregnant Person as part of an AU
- Needy caretaker relative of a Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payments (SSI/SSP), Foster Care, or Kin-GAP child

Verification Requirement
Medical verification is required to verify pregnancy initially (when the pregnancy is reported) and when the pregnancy continues beyond the originally estimated date of birth. The statement must include the diagnosis of pregnancy and estimated delivery date. Acceptable medical verification of pregnancy is a written statement from a:

- Physician
- Physician’s assistant
- State certified nurse midwife
- Nurse practitioner
- Designated medical or clinical personnel with access to the customer’s medical record

Customers may also submit a sworn statement signed under penalty of perjury, or verbal attestation (when NICE InContact is unavailable), to verify their pregnancy when medical verification is not available, for the PSN payment to be authorized.

Medical verification of pregnancy must be submitted within 30 business days following submittal of the sworn statement, or verbal attestation, for the PSN payment to continue. Upon the expiration of the 30-day period, the PSN payment may continue if the customer presents evidence of good-faith efforts to obtain and submit the medical verification. Staff will assist the customer, when it has been determined the customer has made every attempt necessary to obtain the documentation, as outlined...
under CPG 22-000.B.

If the medical verification is not submitted within 30 business days and there is no evidence of good faith efforts to comply, the PSN will be discontinued at the end of the month of the 30-day period with timely and adequate notice. PSN payments may resume upon receipt of medical verification of pregnancy effective the month in which the verification is provided.

**Pregnant Person Only (PPO) AU**
An AU with a pregnant person and no other eligible child is referred to as a PPO case. A PPO case may be eligible to receive CalWORKs and PSN payments, any time after verification of pregnancy is provided (refer to CPG 41-500.F).

Pregnant teens who are age 18 or younger with no eligible children in the home, and have not obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent, do not have to be enrolled in Cal-Learn to receive the PSN, however, eligible customers must be referred to Cal-Learn based on participation requirements as described in CPG 15-000.B.

**Pregnant Person Applicant as Part of an AU:**
A customer who reports their pregnancy and is determined eligible for CalWORKs at application as part of an AU with other eligible people or is the caretaker relative of a person in accordance with CPG 41-500.D Persons Included in the AU, will be entitled to receive the PSN payment from the date of application.

An eligible child in the AU may be considered a pregnant person once their pregnancy has been verified. Although pregnancy verification must be received prior to granting aid or the PSN, receipt of that verification does not delay the beginning date of aid (BDA).

**Voluntary Mid-Period Report**
A mid-period request for a PSN for an aided person will be granted from the first of the month in which either the need was reported, or the verification substantiates that the need exists, whichever is later.

**Ending the PSN - Semi-Annual Reporting (SAR) Impact**
PSN payments will not be ended mid-period if CalWORKs benefits for the AU will decrease. The PSN payment will continue until the end of the reporting period in which the child is expected to be born as the birth of a newborn is not a mandatory report. The PSN payment may be ended mid period if the customer chooses to voluntarily report the birth of the newborn. Refer to CPG 44-270.H Voluntary Mid-Period Reports for direction on when to end the PSN payment when the birth of a newborn is voluntarily reported mid period.

**Sanctioned or Penalized Pregnant Person**
A pregnant person under a financial sanction or penalty which excludes them is not entitled to a PSN payment, due to the following reasons:
- A financially sanctioned person is not being aided and therefore would not be eligible for a special need payment.
A penalty requires that the cash aid needs of any person failing to comply with certain eligibility requirements are not considered. These needs include PSN. This does not apply to cases in which a Child Support penalty is being assessed.

References:
AB 1579, 1640
EAS 44-211.6, 44-318.15, 80-301, 82-836
ACL No. 14-04, 15-38, 21-134, 21-140
ACIN No. I-72-20

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

Approval for Release:

Rick Wanne, Director
Self-Sufficiency Services