

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Agency (HHS)
CalWORKs Program Guide

Pregnancy Special Need

Number

44-200.C

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Revision Date:

March 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 revision is to implement changes to the medical verification of pregnancy requirements for applicants to receive CalWORKs and the PSN payment. Effective July 1, 2021 an applicant who cannot provide medical verification of pregnancy will be allowed to submit a sworn statement signed under penalty of perjury to verify pregnancy.

Policy:

PSN Payment

A PSN payment is \$47 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

For **pending cases only**, customers may also submit a sworn statement or sign the Statement of Facts (SOF) to verify their pregnancy when medical verification is not available. Refer to CalWORKs Program Guide (CPG) section 41-500.F Pregnancy Based Assistance Unit for the policy on accepting these alternate verifications.

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, depending on the trimester of the pregnancy.

- Pregnant customers age 19 or older with no other eligible children in the home are eligible to the

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PSN payment when they have reached their second trimester and verification has been received.

- 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 are eligible to the PSN payment at any time during the pregnancy once verification has been received. They do not have to wait until they reach their second trimester. Enrollment in Cal-Learn is not mandatory to receive the PSN, however, eligible customers should be referred to Cal-Learn based on participation requirements in CPG section 15-000.B, Cal-Learn Program Eligibility & Participation Requirements.

Note: For PPO customers and PPO Teen customers regulations on AU determinations and how to determine the second trimester of pregnancy, refer to CPG 41-500.F Pregnancy Based Assistance Unit.

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

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ACIN No. I-72-20

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by March 31, 2025.

Approval for Release:

Handwritten signature and date: RW, 3-21-22

Rick Wanne, Director
Self-Sufficiency Services