

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

Eligibility for Disaster Victims and Evacuees Affected by Major Fires in Siskiyou, Plumas, Lassen, Butte and Alpine Counties	Number	Page
	21-07	1

Effective Date:

August 9, 2021

Background:

Emergency proclamations were issued by Governor Newsom on July 16, 2021 and July 23, 2021 for the following counties effected by major wildfires: Siskiyou County due to the Lava Fire; Plumas and Lassen Counties due to the Beckwourth Complex Fire; Plumas County due the Dixie Fire and Fly Fire; Butte and Lassen Counties due the Dixie Fire; and Alpine County due to the Tamarack Fire. The danger and damage caused by the fires has made it necessary for some families to evacuate their home counties.

Purpose:

The purpose of this special notice is to remind Human Services Specialists (HSS) of CalWORKs policies when processing applications received from wildfire victims and evacuees from the federally designated disaster or State declared emergency areas. The victims and evacuees may be eligible to waivers of CalWORKs rules.

Policy:

It is anticipated that some evacuees will apply for CalWORKs in disaster counties or counties other than those in which they reside, due to disaster-related relocation. Many evacuees will lack documentation of various items such as identity, age, social security number, value of property/resources, income, and may be unable to obtain such verification within standard application processing time periods.

When processing applications received from victims and evacuees in State or Federal declared emergency areas, HSSs must follow the guidance regarding waivers of CalWORKs rules as mentioned in the CalWORKs Processing Guide 40-100.E6.

CalWORKs rules regarding residency, income, property resources, temporary absence, work participation and SAR 7 reporting requirements also apply to Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP) customers.

Procedure:

HSSs are encouraged to explore Immediate Needs, Diversion and Homeless Assistance eligibility for the wildfire evacuees. Diversion payments are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or item of need and may be appropriate for displaced families.

When a CalWORKs application is received from an individual or family displaced by the wildfires, the HSS will do the following:

- Create the application in CalWIN
- Enter "Disaster CalWORKs" case special indicator
- Determine that the evacuee was living in a Federal or State declared disaster area during the period that the wildfires occurred
- Ask the evacuee if anyone in their family is currently receiving CalWORKs
- Process the application and complete the eligibility determination process

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	21-07	2

Impacts:

- Automation
Enter "Disaster CalWORKs" case special indicator for those applications that meet the above criteria.
- CalFresh
Refer to CFPG 63-500 Disaster Food Stamps Program

References:

ACWDL (July 22, 2021) (July 26, 2021)

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by August 31, 2022

Approval for Release:

 for:

Rick Wanne, Director
Eligibility Operations