

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

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Effective Date:

January 1, 2022

Background:

Employees in California are required to be paid the minimum wage as required by state law, with certain exemptions. The current California minimum wage is \$14.00 per hour; and \$13.00 per hour for businesses with less than 26 employees.

Purpose:

To inform eligibility staff of the increase in the statewide minimum wage and its impact on CalWORKs, CalFresh, Employment Services (ES), and CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T).

Policy:

Effective January 1, 2022, the California minimum wage will increase to \$15.00 per hour. The California minimum wage for businesses with less than 26 employees will also increase to \$14.00 per hour. Refer to CalWORKs Program Guide (CPG) 44-270.F / CalFresh Program Guide (CFPG) 63-282 for guidance on Prospective Budgeting and Reasonably Anticipated Income.

Procedure:

CalWORKs and CalFresh Programs

Individuals are expected to report income reflecting the minimum wage increase beginning in the SAR 7 data month January 2022 or Redetermination/Recertification/Renewal (RRR) month February 2022.

Customers are required to report mid-period when their income exceeds their Income Reporting Threshold (IRT). If the customer reports a pay increase prior to January 1, 2022, use current reporting regulations to determine when the change of income should be used in the budget. Refer to CPG 44-270.G / CFPG 63-283 for further guidance on Mandatory Mid-Period Reports, and refer to CPG 44-270.H / CFPG 63-284 on Voluntary Mid-Period Reports.

ES

Employment Case Managers (ECMs) must perform the Simplified CalFresh Program (SCFP) Calculation to determine the maximum number of hours that a participant can be required to participate in a Work Experience (WEX) or Community Service (CS) assignment. ECMs must use the minimum wage of \$14.00 when completing such a calculation through December 31, 2021. Refer to CPG 10-050.A and CalWORKs Processing Guide No. 10-050.A.1 for further guidance.

CalFresh

State and Federal Minimum wages are used in the following computations:

- California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) Work Requirements (CFPG 63-156)
- Work Registration Requirements (CFPG 63-901)
- Voluntary Quit (CFPG 63-159)
- Student Eligibility Requirements (CFPG 63-162)
- Work Incentive Nutrition Supplement (WINS) Eligibility (CFPG 63-420)
- Employment and Training (E&T) Work Requirement (CFPG 63-901)
- E&T Exemption Criteria (CFPG 63-901)
- Determination of Workfare Hours (CFPG 63-901)

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Impacts:

Instructions for other programs are distributed separately.

References:

Senate Bill (SB) 3 (Chapter 4, Statute of 2016)
ACIN No. I-64-21

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by January 31, 2023.

Approval for Release:

 for:

Rick Wanne, Director
Self-Sufficiency Services