

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

Implementation of Census Earned Income Exemption

Number

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Revision Date:

October 1, 2021

Background:

The United States (U.S.) Census Bureau employs people to fulfill temporary employment positions related to the decennial census. Any census-related income or stipend earned during the year preceding a decennial census and during the year of the decennial census is exempt from consideration as income for the CalWORKs program, even if it can be reasonably anticipated to continue. For CalFresh, earned income received for temporary employment related to the 2020 U.S. Census is excluded, when determining eligibility and benefits, from August 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Special Notice is to update the treatment of the temporary census earned income for CalWORKs and CalFresh.

Note: Addendum A to CalFresh/CAPI Special Notice No. 19-01, General Relief Special Notice No. 19-03 become obsolete with the issuance of this Special Notice. CalWORKs Special Notice No. 19-04 became obsolete with the issuance of CalWORKs Program Guide 44-100.F revision on 02/03/20.

Policy:

This policy removes the CalWORKs conditions that the income earned from temporary work is only exempt during the year preceding a decennial census and during the year of the decennial census.

Therefore, effective immediately any census related income or stipends would be exempt for CalWORKs if the temporary work is related to the decennial census, regardless of the year paid. This provision applies retroactively to January 1, 2021, and exempts any income or stipend paid by U.S. Census Bureau, a government entity, or a nonprofit organization for temporary work related to improving participation in the decennial census.

Procedure:

None.

Impacts:

CalFresh

Census income must be reasonably anticipated for it to be included in the CalFresh budget. Census income that is reasonably anticipated will be counted as earned income and is subject to allowable earned income deductions. Census income that cannot be reasonably anticipated will be excluded and not counted in the CalFresh budget. For guidance on determining reasonable anticipated income, refer to CFPG 63-282.

General Relief (GR)

According to GRPG 90-400.4.F, Census income is treated as earned income in the GR Program. Human Service Specialists (HSSs) are reminded that they must consider that this income is temporary.

Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)

CAPI treats census income as earned income.

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Automation

CalWIN is currently programmed to exempt the temporary census earned income type for the CalWORKs program. HSSs will only need to process underpayments if census income was budgeted as a non-exempt earned income type.

References:

All County Letter No. 21-99

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by October 31, 2022.

Approval for Release:



for:

Rick Wanne, Director
Self-Sufficiency Services