

**County of Orange Social Services Agency
Family Self-Sufficiency Division**

Program/Area: CalWORKs/Welfare-To-Work
Title: Pregnancy Special Needs/Aid Based On Pregnancy
Number: 100-D2 **Status:** Signature on file
Effective Date: 08/03 **Revision Date:** 12/09/2015
Approved:

PURPOSE The purpose of this policy is to provide instructions on evaluating eligibility for the Pregnancy Special Need (PSN) payments when:

- There are no eligible children in the Assistance Unit (AU)
- There are other eligible children in the AU

DEFINITIONS **Pregnant Woman** - A woman (including a minor) who has provided medical verification of pregnancy to the county.

Pregnant Woman Only (PWO) – A pregnant woman with no other eligible children in the home.

Pregnancy Verification – Acceptable medical verification of pregnancy in the form of a written statement which substantiates the diagnosis of pregnancy and provides the estimated delivery date from a:

- Physician,
- Physician’s Assistant,
- State certified nurse midwife,
- Nurse practitioner, or
- Designated medical or clinic personnel with access to the patient’s medical record.

PSN Payment – A \$47 payment allowance for an eligible pregnant woman who has provided pregnancy verification.

Second Trimester - The beginning of the sixth month immediately prior to the month of anticipated birth and continuing through the month of birth.

Semi-Annual Reporting (SAR) Payment Period – The six month period for which cash aid is paid/issued, beginning the first day of the month following the completion and submittal of the SAWS 2 or following the SAR Submit Month.

Annual Reporting/Child Only (AR/CO) Payment Period – The twelve month period for which cash aid is paid/issued, beginning the first day of the month following the completion and submittal of the SAWS 2 or following the AR/CO Submit Month.

PSN PAYMENT ELIGIBILITY In addition to the CalWORKs grant, a \$47 PSN payment is paid to eligible pregnant women who have provided medical verification of pregnancy.

The following pregnant women are not eligible to PSN:

- Penalized adult
- Excluded adult
- CalWORKs sanctioned adult
- Timed-out adult

Note: The PSN payment is allowed for a pregnant woman with a Cal-Learn penalty or child support non-cooperation penalty.

When pregnancy verification indicates a multiple birth (i.e. twins) only one PSN payment is allowed. The PSN is for the pregnant woman and since there is only one pregnant woman there is only one PSN payment. If an AU contains two pregnant women, and each is eligible to PSN, two PSN payments are allowed.

Note: A pregnant woman's eligibility for PSN payments is not affected if she does not intend to keep the newborn.

BUDGETING PSN PAYMENTS For budgeting purposes, the PSN payment is included in Applicant/Recipient Financial Eligibility Test. The PSN payment is not included in Overpayment adjustments.

AU OF ONE - KNOWN AS A PREGNANT WOMAN ONLY (PWO) An AU of one shall be established when a pregnant woman without an eligible child (PWO) meets all of the following conditions:

- Medical verification of pregnancy has been provided
- The pregnant woman and unborn child, if born and living with the mother, would be eligible for CalWORKs
- The pregnancy has reached the second trimester (for Cal-Learn teens and pregnant-only teens 18 or younger with a High School diploma or equivalent see sections below); and
- The pregnant woman could not be included in another AU.

PREGNANT Effective July 1, 2015, a pregnant woman, 19 years of age or

**WOMEN ONLY
(PWO) 19
YEARS OLD OR
OLDER**

older, with no other eligible children in the home, may be eligible for CalWORKs and the PSN payments beginning in the second trimester of pregnancy, after verification of pregnancy is provided. Prior to July 1, 2015, these pregnant women were not eligible for CalWORKs and the PSN payments until the third trimester of pregnancy, after verification of pregnancy was provided.

The unborn child of the PWO must meet the deprivation criteria in order for the PWO to be eligible for CalWORKs. Refer to the Deprivation section in this policy and [Policy 100-D1 CalWORKs Deprivation](#) for more information.

A Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) pregnant woman is eligible to receive the PSN payments at the beginning of the second trimester as long as all eligibility criteria is met and verification is provided.

Refer to Worker Tool 55, Pregnancy Eligibility Chart – PWO, to determine second trimester eligibility based on the anticipated month of birth.

**CAL-LEARN
PREGNANT-
ONLY TEENS**

A pregnant teen with no other children who has entered the Cal-Learn program is eligible for CalWORKs and the PSN payment from the date of application, after pregnancy verification is provided, regardless of whether the teen is in the second trimester of pregnancy.

For a CalWORKs SAR case, the PSN payment will continue through the end of the SAR Payment Period in which the child is expected to be born. However, if a recipient voluntarily reports the birth of the child mid-period, the PSN is discontinued at the end of the month prior to the month the newborn child is added to the AU. The newborn is added to the AU the first month following the month the birth is reported.

For a CalWORKs AR/CO case, the PSN Payment will continue through the end of the month prior to the month in which the newborn child is added to the AU. If the birth of the child is reported mid-year, the PSN is discontinued at the end of the month prior to the month the newborn child is added to the AU regardless of whether it is an increase or decrease to the cash grant because changes in household composition is a mandatory report for AR/CO cases.

Refer to [Policy 100-C4.B Add a Newborn/Parent to the Assistance Unit](#), [Policy 100-E5.A Mid Period Reporting in SAR](#), [Policy 100-E13 Annual Reporting/ Child Only \(AR/CO\)](#) and [Policy](#)

[100-C7 Cal-Learn Program](#) for more information.

Minor parent regulations apply. Refer to Policy 100-B10 Minor Parent Requirements for more information.

PREGNANT-ONLY TEENS 18 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR EQUIVALENT

Effective January 1, 2013, a pregnant-only teen 18 years old or younger who has graduated from high school or obtained a high school diploma or equivalent and has no other children may be eligible for CalWORKs and the PSN payment from the date pregnancy verification is provided, regardless of whether the teen is in the second trimester of pregnancy or eligible for the Cal-Learn program. Prior to January 1, 2013, these pregnant-only teens were not eligible until they reached the third trimester of pregnancy.

Note: The unborn child of the pregnant teen must meet the deprivation criteria in order for the pregnant teen to be eligible for CalWORKs. Refer to the Deprivation section of this policy and [Policy 100-D1 CalWORKs Deprivation](#) for more information.

Minor parent regulations apply. Refer to Policy 100-B10 Minor Parent Requirements for more information.

BEGINNING DATE OF AID (BDA)

The BDA is the date of application, or the date of eligibility if the AU is not eligible on the date of application.

For a PWO:

- Pregnancy verification must be provided prior to approving CalWORKs but does not affect the BDA.
- Immediate Need cannot be authorized until pregnancy verification is provided.
- Homeless Assistance cannot be authorized until pregnancy verification is provided.

Refer to Policy 100-A2 Immediate Need and Policy 100-H2 Homeless Assistance for more information.

ELIGIBLE CALWORKS APPLICANT / RECIPIENT WITH OTHER ELIGIBLE CHILDREN IN THE AU

Applicant with other eligible children

An eligible pregnant woman who applies for CalWORKs assistance as part of an AU with other eligible children is entitled to receive a PSN payment from the date of application.

Recipient with other eligible children

An eligible pregnant woman who receives CalWORKs assistance, as part of an AU with other eligible children, shall be

authorized PSN payments from the first of the month in which pregnancy verification was received.

For a CalWORKs AR/CO case:

If the birth is reported mid-period, the PSN payment shall be discontinued at the end of the month prior to the month in which the newborn is added to the AU, regardless of whether it will result in an increase or decrease in the cash grant because a change in household composition is a mandatory report for AR/CO cases.

If the pregnancy is verified to extend beyond the estimated date of confinement (EDC) and into the next AR/CO Payment Period, the PSN payment shall continue until the newborn is added to the AU.

Refer to Policy 100-C4.B Add a Newborn/Parent to the Assistance Unit and Policy 100-E13 Annual Reporting/ Child Only (AR/CO) for more information.

For a CalWORKs SAR case:

If the birth is voluntarily reported mid-period and results in an **increase** in benefits:

- The PSN payment is discontinued at the end of the month prior to the month the newborn is added to the AU. The newborn is added to the AU the first of the month after the birth is reported and all verifications have been received.

If the birth is voluntarily reported mid-period and results in a **decrease** in benefits:

- The PSN payment shall continue through the end of the current SAR Payment Period. The newborn shall be added to the AU the first of the month of the next SAR Payment Period after the PSN payment is discontinued.

If the birth is voluntarily reported mid-period and results in **ineligibility**:

- The PSN payment shall continue through the end of the current SAR Payment Period.

If the pregnancy is verified to extend beyond the EDC and extends into the next SAR Payment Period, the PSN payment shall continue until the end of the SAR Payment Period in which the new EDC is established or until the newborn is added to the AU.

Refer to Policy 100-C4.B Add a Newborn/Parent to the Assistance Unit, Policy 100-E5.A Mid Period Reporting in SAR

for more information.

Note: If a recipient does not report that she is pregnant, but only reports the birth of the child, she is not eligible for the PSN payment. If the recipient reports that she is pregnant, but does not provide pregnancy verification, she is not eligible for the PSN payment. It is the responsibility of the recipient to report all changes, including reporting the pregnancy and providing the pregnancy verification.

BIRTH EARLIER THAN THE EDC

When the birth is earlier than the EDC, the PSN payment cannot be retroactively issued.

Example:

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
		2 nd Trimester					Birth	EDC

The EDC is in September and the PSN payment was allowed beginning in March, the second trimester. If the baby is born in August, a month early, the start of the second trimester is not recalculated to issue retroactive PSN for February.

MAXIMUM FAMILY GRANT (MFG) CHILD

The PSN payment is allowed even if it is anticipated that the newborn will be an MFG child. If a recipient is receiving PSN payments and adding the MFG child would not result in an increase to the grant, then the PSN shall continue through the end of the SAR Payment Period in which the child is born.

For a CalWORKs AR/CO case, the PSN payment shall be discontinued at the end of the month prior to the month in which the child is born with timely and adequate notice.

Refer to Policy 100-H3 MFG for more information.

DEPRIVATION FOR UNBORN CHILD

When the other parent of the unborn is in the home, deprivation can be incapacity or unemployed parent.

Incapacity

The parent of an eligible child has a physical or mental illness, defect, or impairment that reduces substantially, or eliminates the parent's ability to support or care for the child for a period which is expected to last at least 30 days and which is supported by acceptable verification of incapacity.

Unemployed Parent

The principal earner (PE) parent is unemployed or employed less than 100 hours during the four-week period prior to the date of eligibility for cash aid based on unemployment.

When the other parent of the unborn is not in the home, deprivation can be absent or deceased parent.

Absent Parent

The natural parent is physically absent from the home which results in interruption or termination of the parent's functioning as a provider of maintenance, physical care or guidance for the child. An Alternately Sentenced Parent (ASP) who is serving jail time at home is considered absent for deprivation purposes.

Deceased Parent

Either parent is deceased.

Note: Defer sending child support referrals for the "unborn child" for pregnant women and teen parent cases until after the child is born. Refer to [Policy 100-A1 Child Support](#) for more information.

Refer to [Policy 100-D1 CalWORKs Deprivation](#) for more information on Deprivation.

OTHER PARENT'S INCOME AND PROPERTY

When the unaided other parent of the unborn is living in the home with a PWO, the other parent is an excluded parent.

- The excluded other parent's income, property and resources are included in the eligibility determination

Refer to Policy 100-B2 Treatment of Income and Policy 100-C1 Property for more information.

WIC (WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN)

The WIC program provides free supplemental food, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and education, other support services and referrals to other resources to low income families. Review and provide a copy of the DTP 1087 WIC flyer to AUs with a pregnant woman and/or children up to 5-years old. Note in CalWIN Case Comments that the WIC flyer was reviewed and provided to the AU.

CALWIN

Upon issuance of the PSN payment, send Notice of Action M44-

NOTICES OF ACTION

211L *Pregnancy Special Needs* to inform the client that the grant amount is changing due to the PSN payment being approved.

If verification for pregnancy is not received by the requested deadline, send Notice of Action M40-105.1 *CW/RCA Denial of Pregnancy Special Need*. This notice is only required when the client fails to provide the requested pregnancy verification.

ATTACHMENTS [DTP 1087 - WIC Flyer](#)

Worker Tool 55, Pregnancy Eligibility Chart - PWO

REFERENCES MPP 44-205; 44-211.6; 44-315.46; 44-316; 44-317.2; 44-318.15; 69-211.4; 82-836.1&2

ACL 00-45, 12-25, 14-04, 15-38

ACIN I-39-06

[Policy 100-A1 Child Support](#)

[Policy 100-A2 Immediate Need](#)

[Policy 100-B2 Treatment of Income](#)

Policy 100-B10 Minor Parent Requirements

[Policy 100-C1 Property](#)

[Policy 100-C4.B Add a Newborn/Parent to the Assistance Unit](#)

[Policy 100-C7 Cal-Learn Program](#)

[Policy 100-D1 CalWORKs Deprivation](#)

[Policy 100-E5.A Mid Period Reporting in SAR](#)

[Policy 100-E13 Annual Reporting/ Child Only \(AR/CO\)](#)

[Policy 100-H2 Homeless Assistance](#)

[Policy 100-H3 MFG](#)