

## 35. Pregnancy Special Needs

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### 35.1 General [EAS 44-211.6, 80-301]

In addition to the basic CalWORKs grant, a Pregnancy Special Need (PSN) payment is paid to eligible pregnant women who provide medical verification. The allowance for a pregnancy special need is based on the woman's condition of pregnancy.

#### 35.1.1 Definition

Acceptable medical verification of pregnancy is 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.

#### 35.1.2 Allowance

The pregnancy special need allowance is \$47.

#### 35.1.3 Claiming

Generally, the aid-type determines if the pregnancy special need allowance is claimed as federal or non-federal. In a mixed claiming situation, claim the pregnancy special need allowance as non-federal.

## 35.2 CalWORKs Federal Eligibility — AU-of-One [EAS 44-211.6, 88-410]

### 35.2.1 Steps

For a pregnant woman only, AU-of-One, there is no CalWORKs eligibility in the first trimester. A pregnant woman, in her second trimester, who has applied for CalWORKs with no eligible children is eligible to receive CalWORKs and is entitled to receive the pregnancy special need payment from the date of application through the end of the payment period in which the child is expected to be born once required verification has been provided. If the birth of the child is voluntarily reported mid-period, the pregnancy special need payment must be discontinued at the end of the month prior to the month in which the newborn is added into the AU. Take the following steps at application:

STEP	ACTION
1.	Secure the pregnancy verification. Establish deprivation for the unborn, and clear all other eligibility factors. (If there is no linkage to CalWORKs there is no eligibility.)  <b>Note:</b> The term “second trimester” is defined as the beginning of the fourth month to the end of the sixth month of pregnancy. If the applicant does not provide the pregnancy verification, deny the CalWORKs application and continue to process the Medi-Cal application.
2.	Compute the budget allowing the pregnancy special need.
3.	Send the recipient the appropriate Notices of Action both when the special need is allowed and in the final month of the special need.



**Note:**

A pregnant teen in an AU-of-One is eligible for the entire length of her pregnancy, as long as the unborn has a basis of deprivation.



**Example:**

A pregnant woman applies for CalWORKs on September 26th for herself and her unborn child. The baby is due on March 26th. She provides her pregnancy verification and all other supporting documentation. Since she is in her second trimester, the EW must approve the CalWORKs application and determine her eligibility for Medi-Cal and Food Stamps (if she so wishes).

### 35.2.2 Teen Parent - AU-of-One

A pregnant teen parent with no other children (AU-of-One) is eligible for the pregnancy special need payment if the unborn has a basis for deprivation.

The pregnant teen is claimed as eligible during the pregnancy, and is paid the Federal Pregnancy Special Need for the entire length of her pregnancy.

## 35.3 Federal Eligibility — AU With Needy Children [EAS 44-211.6]

### 35.3.1 Steps

An otherwise eligible pregnant woman with one or more needy children is considered eligible for the pregnancy special need effective the first of the month in which the request for the pregnancy special need was received, up through the end of the payment period in which the child is expected to be born once required verification has been provided. If the birth of the child is voluntarily reported mid-period, the pregnancy special need payment shall be discontinued at the end of the month prior to the month in which the newborn is added into the AU. It is not necessary to establish deprivation for the unborn. The following steps must be taken:

STEP	ACTION
1.	Secure the pregnancy verification. <b>Note:</b> It is not necessary to establish deprivation for the unborn. The pregnancy special need is paid on the basis of the pregnancy. If the recipient does not provide the pregnancy verification within 30 days, deny the pregnancy special need.
2.	Allow the pregnancy special need from the first of the month in which the request for the pregnancy special need was received. Do not prorate.
3.	Claim the special need based on the AU's Aid-Type.
4.	Send the recipient the NOA M44-211L when the special need is approved and in the final month of the special need.



**Reminder:**

The Special Need payment is issued on the basis of pregnancy.

### 35.3.2 Caretaker of SSI/SSP Child, Foster Care Child, or Kin-GAP Child

If a caretaker relative of an SSI/SSP child, a Foster Care child, or a Kin-GAP child receives CalWORKs for only herself and becomes pregnant, that caretaker relative is eligible to receive the pregnancy special need, if otherwise eligible, effective the first of the month in which the request for the pregnancy special need was received through the month in which the birth is anticipated.

### 35.3.3 Examples



**Example:**

A recipient reports on her July SAR 7 received in August, that she is pregnant. The EW requests a pregnancy verification. The verification is provided in November showing an EDC of December 17th. The recipient's pregnancy special need begins on November 1st.



**Example:**

A recipient notifies her EW on her July SAR 7, received August 11th, that she is pregnant and the baby is due in September. The EW sends her an CW 2200 requesting verification of pregnancy, which is received on August 25th. The recipient is eligible for the pregnancy special need from August 1st.



**Example:**

A needy caretaker is receiving CalWORKs for herself only, as the needy eligible child receives SSI/SSP. The caretaker becomes pregnant. She reports the pregnancy and provides the verification on October 27th, which states the baby is due on March 11th. The EW approves the pregnancy special need beginning October 1.

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

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## 35.4 Other Concerns

### 35.4.1 Non-AU Members

Non-AU members are persons whose income is considered in the budget computation, when determining the “family” MAP. The needs of these persons may also be considered, this includes special needs. These persons are generally found in the stepparent unit, the senior parent unit, or the ineligible non-citizen parent unit. [\[Refer to “Non-AU Members,” page 25-2\]](#)

### 35.4.2 Sanctioned or Penalized Person

A sanctioned or penalized person is not aided and therefore is not eligible for a special needs payment. [\[Refer to “Rule,” page 35-6\]](#)



**Note:**

This does not apply to grant adjustments due to the Cal-Learn penalty or the 25% penalty for child support non-cooperation. [\[Refer to “Ineligibility for Entire AU,” page 25-21\]](#)

### 35.4.3 Termination Of Special Need

Terminating the pregnancy special need is an adverse action and the recipient must be informed of the discontinuance of the special need. It does not matter that other factors create an overall increase in the grant. If the pregnancy special need is paid in a month when the recipient is not pregnant, it is an overpayment. The EW can then balance the overpayment against the underpayment. The Maintain Case Comments window must be updated to indicate the action that was taken.

### 35.4.4 Multiple Pregnancy Special Needs

When a pregnancy verification indicates a multiple birth (i.e. twins) only one special need is allowed. The pregnancy special need is for the pregnant woman and since there is only one pregnant woman there is only one special need.

If an AU contains two pregnant women, and each is entitled to a pregnancy special need, the EW must enter the pregnancy information for each on the Collect Pregnancy Detail window in order for CalWIN to allow the pregnancy special need for both.

## 35.5 Budgeting Concerns

### 35.5.1 Rule



#### Important:

Current Income Disregard and MAP values must be used in calculations. Income Disregard and MAP values in the example below may **not** reflect current values.

When determining if the recipient is eligible, add the pregnancy special need to MAP as appropriate. For example, a mother receives CalWORKs for herself and one child. She is pregnant and the baby is due in 2 months. Her gross income is \$587 per month. This is an “Employable” AU. The test is as follows:

Recipient Net Income Test	
Gross Earned Income	\$587
Less \$225 Income Disregard	-225
Equals Net Earned Income	\$362
Less 50% Earned Income Disregard	-181
Total Net Non-exempt Income	\$181
MAP for 2 (New MAP - Effective 04/19)	\$635
Plus Preg. Special Need	+ 47
Equals Total Needs	\$682.

Since the Total Net Non-exempt Income of \$181 is less than total needs, the AU passes the Recipient Net Income Test and remains financially eligible.