



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**Department of Health Care Services**



July 29, 2021

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS Letter No.: 21-14  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS  
ALL COUNTY HEALTH EXECUTIVES  
ALL COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY MEDS LIAISONS

SUBJECT: GOLDEN STATE STIMULUS AND GOLDEN STATE GRANT  
PAYMENTS

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide counties with guidance regarding new income and resource disregards for Golden State Stimulus and Golden State Grant payments. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) received federal approval by means of California Disaster State Plan Amendment (SPA) 21-0027 to disregard payments received from these two programs as income and as resources for 12 months following receipt for non-Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medi-Cal programs.

**Background**

Assembly Bill (AB) 88 (Chapter 12, Statutes of 2021) and Senate Bill (SB) 88 (Chapter 8, Statutes of 2021) were signed into law, which authorized the Golden State Stimulus and the Golden State Grant payments.

*Golden State Stimulus*

To qualify for a Golden State Stimulus payment, recipients must meet all of the following five requirements:

1. Have filed their 2020 taxes
2. Is either:
  - A California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) recipient, or
  - An Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) filer who made \$75,000 or less
3. Be a California resident on the date payment is issued
4. Live in California for more than half of the 2020 tax year
5. Not be eligible to be claimed as a dependent for tax filing purposes

Depending on the recipient's qualifications, families may receive a one-time payment of \$600 or a one-time payment of \$1,200. These payments will be provided to eligible

households shortly after they file their 2020 tax returns. Payments are anticipated to begin mid-April 2021. Any questions regarding the qualifications to receive the Golden State Stimulus payment should be directed to the State of California Franchise Tax Board. Additional information and contact information can be found on the [Franchise Tax Board](#) website.

#### *Golden State Grant*

To qualify for a Golden State Grant payment, qualifying groups include the following:

- A California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) assistance unit. The CalWORKs assistance unit is the CalWORKs case, not per person.
- A recipient of benefits provided under the Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Legal Immigrants (CAPI).
- A recipient of benefits under the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program (SSI/SSP).

The Golden State Grant will provide qualified recipients with a one-time payment of \$600. Payments made to CalWORKs assistance units will be issued in the same way as the recipient receives their monthly payment – by direct deposit, Electronic Benefit Transfer, or by check. The Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (SAWS) will disburse the payments to CalWORKs assistance units by mid-April 2021. Additional information regarding these payments can be found in California Department of Social Services [All County Letter No. 21-23](#).

Information on the timing and method of these payments for [SSI/SSP](#) and [CAPI](#) beneficiaries will be made available on their respective California Department of Social Services websites.

**Note:** It is possible for an individual to qualify for the Golden State Stimulus and the Golden State Grant payments.

#### **Policy**

Golden State Stimulus and Golden State Grant payments are not federal taxable income and therefore are not counted as income for MAGI Medi-Cal eligibility determinations. The CalHEERS application includes existing language to alert consumers not to report this payment as income. Additional information can be found on the [Covered California website](#).

Effective February 23, 2021, counties must disregard from income payments received for either the Golden State Stimulus or the Golden State Grant for all Non-MAGI

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Medi-Cal programs. Retained income from these payments shall be disregarded as resources for 12 months following receipt. The month the payment is available for use by the recipient is considered the month of receipt.

Counties should follow applicable SAWS functional directions on how to record this income and track resources retained longer than 12 months.

If you have any questions about this letter or require additional information, please contact Derek Soiu by phone at (916) 345-8193 or by email at [Derek.Soiu@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Derek.Soiu@dhcs.ca.gov).

**Original Signed By**

Sandra Williams, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division