

CalACES

California Automated Consortium Eligibility System

COUNTIES ELIGIBILITY SYSTEMS

Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) Welfare and Institutions Code section 10823 enabled the development of a multiple county Consortium as the foundation of the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) Project. The purpose of the Consortium concept was to facilitate the collaboration of Counties in meeting their business needs in the areas of System planning, development, implementation, operations, and maintenance. The Consortium concept was intended to provide flexibility to county welfare departments while balancing choice with funding limitations. Currently SAWS is being operated through three (3) Consortia:

- Los Angeles County, LEADER Replacement System (LRS)
- Welfare Client Data System (WCDS) Consortium (also known as CalWIN)
- Consortium IV (C-IV)

Although the Counties lead the development and implementation of automated Systems, Counties recognize that autonomy in administering welfare is guided by Federal and State laws, regulations, rules, and policies. State Project management and oversight for SAWS is provided by the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS), California Department of Social Services (CDSS), California Department of Health Care Services (CDHCS), and California Office of Systems Integration (OSI).

C-IV

In 1996, C-IV established itself as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). As a JPA, C-IV provides a single legal entity, separate from its members, for purposes of managing C-IV and its C-IV System. C-IV is governed and administered by its Board of Directors through a regional representation model.

The C-IV System is a user-friendly, customer-based, on-line, and fully integrated information system designed to manage the data for beneficiaries in receipt of benefits for a number of public assistance programs. C-IV provides services to approximately 4.7 million beneficiaries¹ and supports approximately 18,300 users.

Leader Replacement System (LRS)

In 2016, the LRS project successfully completed implementation of a system to replace their outdated mainframe and client server architecture system called Los Angeles Eligibility, Automated Determination, Evaluation and Reporting (LEADER). LRS supports a user base of approximately 22,000 users, providing services to approximately 4.7 million beneficiaries².

¹ Based on SFY 2015/16 Persons Count

² Based on SFY 2015/16 Persons Count

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The C-IV code was used as the baseline for the LRS development.

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On September 20, 2011, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 16 (ABX1 16), which set forth the C-IV migration to the LRS as State law, which will result in a combined 40-County Consortium to replace the existing LEADER and C-IV Consortia.

- The combined budgets total over \$215 million for State Fiscal Year 2017/18.
- The combined user base is approximately 40,000.
- Over 9 million customers are served each month by the two systems
- Approximately \$9 Billion in benefits were issued by the two systems in 2016
- C-IV and LRS together serve approximately 60% of California's welfare beneficiaries

The JPA will be effective September 2017 in advance of the Migration Development & Implementation project, which will migrate the 39 C-IV Counties to the LRS code base to form the new California Automated Consortium Eligibility System (CalACES).

The Migration D&I is scheduled to begin January 2018 and conclude by August 2020. Both C-IV and LRS will continue in M&O until the migration to CalACES is complete.

Both systems provide the following functions: eligibility determination, benefit computation, benefit distribution, case management, and reporting.

CalACES will continue to provide the consortium's human services workers with a user-friendly automated eligibility and case management system for many state/federal welfare programs including:

- CalWORKS/TANF
 - CalFresh/SNAP
 - Medi-Cal/Medicaid
 - Welfare-to-Work
 - Foster Care
 - General Assistance/General Relief
 - Child Care
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Systems Migration

The first major activity for CalACES will be to migrate the C-IV counties to the LRS code that will create the CalACES application.

Currently, the two maintenance projects work together with a joint change control process and combined policy committee structure. Designing changes from a 40-county perspective has been a long-standing goal to help reduce the migration effort.

The Migration Project will require short term staffing to assist with the migration of C-IV counties to the CalACES.

The project is expected to begin January 2018 and continue for approximately 32 months, however, assignments vary in length depending on the positions' duties. The expected timeframe for each position will be noted in the job announcement.

CalACES Consortium Organizational Chart

