

Certified Welfare Fraud Investigator Exam (CWFI)

At the CWFIA annual conference in Lake Tahoe, CA October 20-22, 2026, CWFIA will offer the Certified Welfare Fraud Investigator (CWFI) Exam. The CWFI program offers professional advancement through a desirable and effective certification program. The program is designed to educate members on all the various aspects of welfare fraud investigations. The course gives members an enhancement in promotions, Administrative/Disqualification Hearings, filing prosecutions cases with the District Attorney, Statement of Expertise in applying for Court Orders /Search Warrants, and testifying as an expert regarding welfare fraud in court.

The CWFI exam was originated and is coordinated by The United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF) in conjunction with CWFIA. UCOWF is a national affiliated organization with CWFIA made up of investigators, administrators, prosecutors, eligibility workers, and claims collectors from local, state, and federal agencies from the United States who have combined their efforts to fight fraud, waste, and abuse in the social service programs. CWFIA members are also members of UCOWF (CWFIA members must individually join UCOWF on their own and pay for membership).

In order to apply for the CWFI examination, you must meet the following qualifications and criteria: Be a current and full-time investigator; investigative support staff including Eligibility Workers, supervisors, administrators, involved in fraud investigation activities. Have a **minimum of two years** of ongoing, continuous experience in public assistance fraud investigations. In the case of employment by a state whose welfare delivery system is state-supervised and locally administered, spend 50% or more of your time in fraud investigation activities (i.e. FPI or back-end fraud investigations). Other duties must be fraud control related. It is required that you have worked in that capacity continuously for **two years** at the time of application. Complete the CWFI Certification Exam.

Be a UCOWF member in good standing, and prior to applying for the CWFI test you must first apply to be a UCOWF member. Navigate to the UCOWF website. <https://www.ucowf.net>. On the CWFI Certification page click on the hyperlink that states “Become a member today”. Fill out the application and pay the dues online. Membership allows access to nationwide fraud news, upcoming proposed legislation, lists of members nationwide with contact information (great contacts to further interstate investigations), social media, and training.

After applying return to the Certification page. This area will provide information on the CWFIA Certification program. To apply for the CWFI exam click on the link for “CWFIA Application” and fill it out. Pay the exam cost online. On the Certification Page, after filling out the membership application, click on the link for Affidavit of Professional Experience. Complete this form and upload the it to the web page. **A supervisor must sign the form.** Once you are registered you can access the study guide for the exam. All exam questions will be drawn from the study guide. **The last date to sign up for the exam is October 7th.** For any questions, contact CWFIA Zone IV Director Glenn Allen by email at: GlennAllen@cwfia.org or tel. 415-812-9991.

