

CalWORKs Division Newsletter

APRIL 2007

THE EXPOSITION PARK CHILD CARE CENTER RESERVED SLOTS PILOT AT GAIN REGION IV

The Exposition Park Child Care Center, located next door to GAIN Region IV, is offering Drop-In Child Care to GAIN participants who are scheduled for one-day or short-term GAIN activities as a part of the Exposition Park Reserved Child Care Slots Pilot. The Pilot was initially implemented in August 2006 and has been extended until August 2007. This service will be available until the end of the Pilot and there is no cost to the participants.

When participants are scheduled to attend Orientation/Appraisal, Job Club, Vocational Assessment, Clinical Assessment or other one-day/short-term activities, they will be able to access child care at the Exposition Park Child Care Center simply by calling the center **two days prior** to their scheduled GAIN appointment/activity to reserve a slot.

Participants scheduled for Orientation/Appraisal may not have the time or the resources to plan ahead for child care. The Exposition Park Child Care Center, operated by Golden Wings Academy, Inc., will provide child care for GAIN participants in an effort to help participants avoid missing a scheduled GAIN activity.

The reserved child care slots are only available to children of GAIN participants between the ages of **six weeks and five years**. For more information, please contact:

- Marilyn Cox – Child Care Coordinator at GAIN Region IV, at (323) 730-6381;
- Liborio Arcana – Child Care Coordinator at GAIN Region IV, Beverly Sub-Office at (213) 738-3751; or
- Lisa Wells – Site Director of Exposition Park Child Care Center at (323) 766-6100.

CIVIL RIGHTS ETHNIC/RACE DATA COLLECTION

Effective April 1, 2007, the Federal ethnic/race data collection mandates changed for persons requesting and receiving Food Stamps benefits. Although the required changes are mandated for Food Stamp applicants/ participants, CalWORKs and RCA applicants/participants will also be impacted by these changes.

The revised Federal ethnic/race data collection and reporting standard require the inclusion of new or revised ethnic and racial categories on Food Stamp applications (DFA 285 A1, Application for Food Stamp Benefits) and joint Food Stamp and CalWORKs applications (SAWS 1, Application for Cash Aid, Food Stamp and/or Medi-Cal) and on LEADER screens, and requires the following:

- The use of separate questions for collecting ethnicity and race data;
- The ethnicity question must be asked first, followed by race; and
- The individual be allowed to report/choose more than one race.

LEADER programming is underway to capture the revised ethnic/race information and is expected to be in production in May 2007.

Food Stamp and CalWORKs Program will be releasing instructions and the revised forms via a Forms Manual Letter shortly.

Questions????

Don't hesitate to contact the CalWORKs Division for program clarification, interpretation or assistance.

FYI Column

Attention! Update! New Release!

Be on the look out! The Specialized Supportive Services Section has released Administrative Directive (AD) No. 4596, Review of GAIN Program and Supportive Services By CalWORKs Home Interview Program (HIP) Eligibility Worker (EW), dated 03/29/2007. The release provides revised instructions and tools for use by the HIP EW, CalWORKs Intake EW, and District Child Care Coordinator (DCCC) to encourage participation in GAIN and attendance at the GAIN Orientation and Appraisal appointments. The new release also provides information related to child care, and transportation.

The following forms were also revised and are included in the AD:

- PA 4037, CalWORKs HIP Child Care Referral and Information, was updated to include current Resource and Referral (R&R) agency addresses and telephone numbers.
- PA 4038, CalWORKs HIP "Let GAIN Help You Have the Life You Want!" was updated to include the DPSS website address.



BE VU ET AL V. MITCHELL AND BOLTON LAWSUIT

As a result of the settlement of the Be Vu lawsuit and Federal Regulations 7 CFR 272.4(b), State released Food Stamp Program forms and specific joint Food Stamp and CalWORKs forms are to be translated into four additional languages (Arabic, Farsi, Hmong and Lao). This is in addition to the eight existing threshold languages (excluding English), Armenian, Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

The forms will be translated and released according to a designated priority listing as identified in the settlement agreement.

The Food Stamp and CalWORKs program staff is working jointly to release the forms.

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