

CalWORKs Division

December 2006 Newsletter

Published by the CalWORKs Division

THE NEW CalWORKs HOMELESS PROGRAM

The 12 Months Rental Subsidy Assistance Program was implemented on December 1, 2006. This program is available to homeless CalWORKs families exiting Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, or Temporary Group Living. The program provides up to \$300 per month in rental subsidy, for up to 12 consecutive months. The amount of rental subsidy is determined by the family size: ■ \$200/month for a family of 2; ■ \$250/month for a family of 3; ■ \$300/month for a family of 4 or more.

Who is eligible?

The family must be receiving CalWORKs and exiting an Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Temporary Group Living. Families moving into subsidized permanent housing are not eligible to receive the rental subsidy. The rent must be within 80% of the Total Monthly Household Income (TMHI).

How will we know the family is moving out of emergency shelter?

The family will be given a Temp 2219, 12 Months Rental Subsidy Assistance Program for CalWORKs Families, completed by the emergency or transitional shelter or temporary group housing which the family is exiting. The CalWORKs participant will then present this referral to his/her Eligibility Worker to apply for the rental subsidy, along with the rental agreement and income verification, if applicable. The participant **cannot** apply for the 12 Months Rental Subsidy Assistance Program without a completed flyer/referral.

TEAM BUILDING SPECIALIZED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (SSS) MEETINGS

The goal of the Team Building SSS Meetings is to increase communication, and strengthen the working relationship between District/Regional staff and service providers. These quarterly meetings will include the following staff:

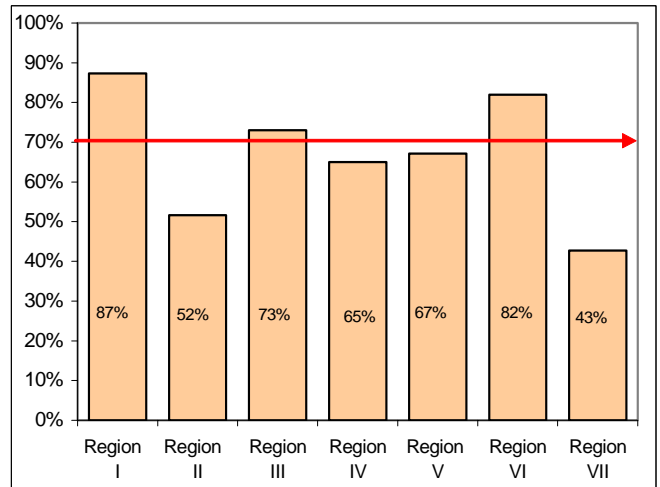
- Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence treatment service providers
- SSS Eligibility Workers & Supervisors
- SSS Deputy District Directors
- SSS GAIN Services Workers & Supervisors
- SSS Deputy Regional Administrators

Staff Development Specialists from the SSS Section will facilitate meetings in their designated Regional Offices and corresponding District Offices. If you have any questions, please contact:

Nina Brown	Regions I, II	(562) 908-5839
Toai Griffin	Regions III, VII	(562) 908-5840
Saul Ledesma	Regions V, VI	(562) 908-5845
Patricia Perez	Regions II, IV	(562) 908-6880

DEPARTMENTAL GOAL FOR SPECIALIZED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (SSS)

In the month of August 2006, the overall percentage of participants commencing SSS was 67%. The chart below provides the percentage of participants beginning SSS by GAIN Region.



Reminder to GAIN Services Workers

Please continue to follow-up with the participants you have referred or assigned to SSS in order to ensure that they begin services. If you experience a backlog in scheduling appointments, please advise the appropriate SSS program analyst by calling (562) 908-6329. Keep up the great work!

DIRECT RENT (DR) IS COMING EARLY 2007

DR is payment for the participant's rent mailed to his/her landlord out of the CalWORKs grant. DR payments can help ensure rent is paid on time avoiding late fees or evictions. DR payments are mandatory for convicted drug felons and available for voluntary participants. DR payment cases will be centralized with a specialized district Eligibility Worker.

MAXIMUM FAMILY GRANT (MFG) WAIVER DUE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The MFG rule is waived when applying the rule makes it harder for Domestic Violence (DV) victims to escape abuse due to the reduced grant or when the rule unfairly penalizes DV victims. An Administrative Directive with detailed instructions for processing the waiver will be released in December 2006. In the interim, districts have begun processing MFG waivers due to DV on a case-by-case basis with guidance from CalWORKs Program.



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

The Exposition Park Child Care Center, located next door to Region IV, is offering Drop-In Child Care to GAIN participants who are scheduled for one-day or short-term GAIN activities. 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:



- Marlyn Cox – Child Care Coordinator at GAIN Region IV, (323) 730-6353;
- Liborio Arcana – Child Care Coordinator at GAIN Region IV Beverly Sub-Office, (213) 738-3751; or
- Lisa Wells – Site Director of Exposition Park Child Care Center at (323) 766-6100.

TEMPORARY HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (THAP)+14 POLICY CLARIFICATION

KEY POINTS

- THAP+14 benefits are limited to CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work applicants/participants.
- THAP+14 is a once-in-a-lifetime benefit with exceptions.
- These changes were effective November 21, 2005.

POLICY

Cases where the adult(s) is GAIN exempt, not aided (i.e., child only cases, including cases where the adult(s) is GAIN sanctioned), or time-limited unemployed and not participating in Post Time-Limited (PTL) Services are not eligible to the THAP+14 benefits.

If the adult(s) agrees to become an “exempt volunteer” in GAIN/RITE or agrees to participate in PTL Services, the case becomes eligible to the THAP+14 payments. Volunteering for these services satisfies this requirement. Issuance of these benefits must not be delayed pending enrollment. **However, the EW must refer the case to the GAIN Coordinator or make arrangements via the Homeless Case Manager assigned to the case to schedule a GAIN appointment for the participant. Cases where the adult(s) is GAIN sanctioned, the sanction must be denied/stopped before the entire case becomes eligible to the THAP+14 payments.**



*Seasons Greetings
From the
CalWORKs Division*

DIRECT DEPOSIT

As a reminder, participants have the option of choosing Direct Deposit for receipt of their cash benefits at any financial institution of his/her choice, which may be a local bank, credit union or Internet bank. Here are a few key points when processing Direct Deposit requests or cancellations:

- All Direct Deposit requests and cancellations submitted to the EW or District Office must be forwarded to the Auditor-Controller for processing via the District locked bag process on **the same day or within one business day**.
- When participants make requests for Direct Deposit enrollment or cancellation, the PA 1675/PA 1675-3 and LEADER screen prints are to be provided to the participant by his/her EW, the Customer Service Representative or other designated eligibility staff.
- All participant problems with Direct Deposit are to be handled by the District's Direct Deposit Liaison. **At no time should the participant be instructed to contact the Auditor-Controller directly.**