

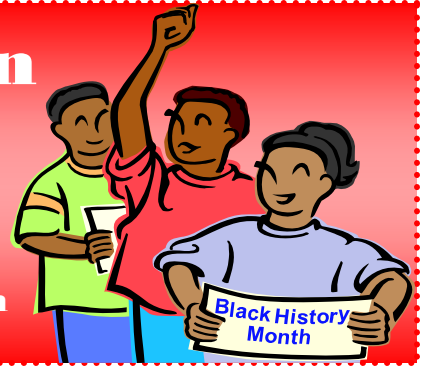


CalWORKs Division

February 2006

Newsletter

Published by the CalWORKs Division



Modified Grant Diversion-Transitional Subsidized Employment (MGD-TSE) Pilot

The MGD-TSE is a grant diversion pilot program based on part/full-time subsidized employment. The pilot will be conducted for six months in the West Los Angeles, Southwest Family, Pasadena, El Monte, San Gabriel, and Pomona Districts beginning March 2006. The pilot revolves around a wage subsidy of \$225 per month, per participant, with a partial or full CalWORKs grant diversion to the employer to be paid to the participant in the form of wages. The remainder of the CalWORKs grant will be paid to the participant as a regular grant. LEADER has been programmed to meet the pilot's requirements.

GAIN and CalWORKs Program Staff have prepared the pilot instructional material. Training will be held for the pilot districts on February 15, 2006. If you have any questions, please contact the CalWORKs Program Staff at (562) 908-5831.

Late QR 7s, QR 72s, and QR 73s

Q: Is the Status Report Control Clerical Unit (SRCU) responsible for processing QR 7s, QR 72s and QR 73s received after the extended filing period (i.e., after the first of the payment month)?

A: No. Per LEADER OPS Handbook Section 23-111.22, QR 7s, QR 72s and QR73s received from the mailroom after the extended filing period are not to be scanned in LEADER or CAST, but are to be forwarded to the QR 7 Change Center staff for forwarding to the Case-Carrying Worker via the PA 2222, Follow-Up Action Required by the Case-Carrying Worker. The Case-Carrying Worker is responsible for determining good cause on all QR 7s, QR 72s, and QR 73s received after the extended filing period (LEADER OPS Handbook Section 23-111.327.) Additionally, participants returning QR 7s, QR 72s, or QR 73s to the District after the extended filing period are to see the Case-Carrying Worker for a good cause determination.

Did You Know That Policy for the THAP+14 and Rental Assistance Programs has Changed Effective November 21, 2005???

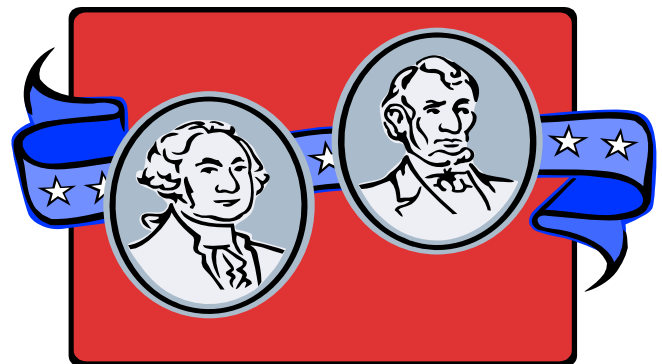
This is to remind staff about the policy changes made to the Temporary Homeless Assistance Program (THAP)+14 and the Rental Assistance (RA) Program. These policy changes became effective November 21, 2005, and were released to staff via Administrative Directive Number 4538, dated November 17, 2005.

THAP+14 and RA benefits are limited to CalWORKs WtW applicants and participants. CalWORKs cases in which the adult is time-limited and employed or participating or agreeing to participate in Post Time-Limited (PTL) Services are also eligible to these benefits. Also, THAP+14 benefits are now a once-in-a-lifetime benefit with exceptions.

Cases in which the adult is GAIN-exempt, not aided (i.e., child only cases), or time-limited, unemployed and not participating or agreeing to participate in PTL Services are not eligible to the THAP+14 and RA benefits.

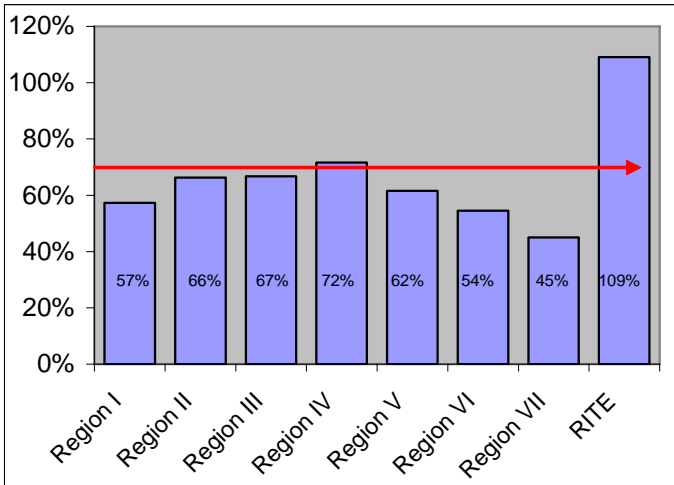
In cases where the adult is GAIN-sanctioned, the case must be referred to a Homeless Case Manager to work with the family in resolving the sanction. Once the sanction has been resolved, the family becomes eligible and may re-apply for the benefits if previously denied.

In cases where the adult is GAIN-exempt, if the adult agrees to become an "exempt volunteer," he/she becomes eligible to these benefits. Volunteering for these services satisfies this requirement.



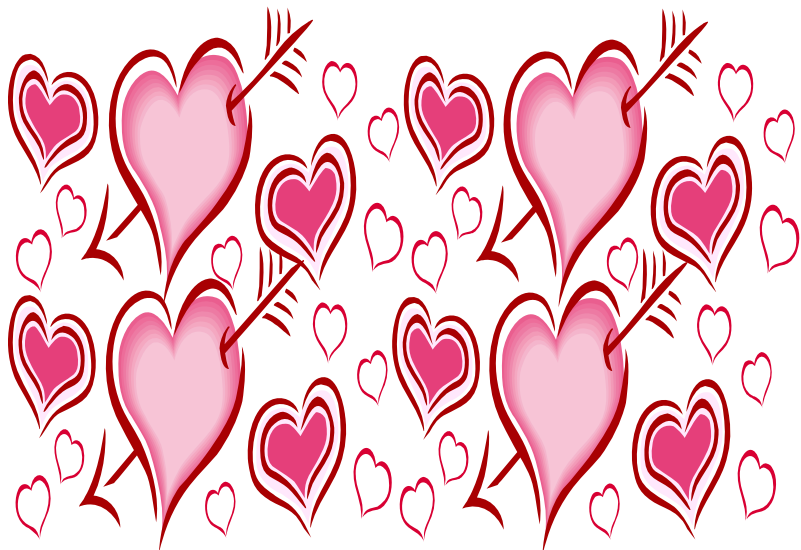
DEPARTMENTAL GOAL FOR SPECIALIZED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

In the month of November 2005, 60% of participants referred to Specialized Supportive Services (SSS) commenced services department-wide. Overall, we need to increase the percentage of participants who begin services by 10% to reach our Departmental goal of 70%. The chart below provides the percentage of participants by Region who commenced services in the month of November.



Here are some things you can do to increase the SSS access rate:

- On back-door referrals, check for the appropriate service requested on the PA 1923, especially for Domestic Violence (DV) services.
- If the service provider is providing Legal DV services, open a DV component with 002L as a session type.
- If multiple DV services are requested, make sure components for 002 and 002L are opened separately.



REMINDER!!!

Attention GAIN Services Workers/Supervisors and Contracted Case Managers!

This is to remind you to refer CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work participants who have been identified with a mental health service need directly to a mental health service provider when the Community Assessment Service Centers (CASC) are unable to provide an appointment within two (2) workdays for an emergent clinical assessment or five (5) workdays for a non-emergent clinical assessment for mental health. Please refer to Administrative Directive No. 4132 Supp.I, dated 05/12/05, for additional instructions.

In addition, complete the "Mental Health Clinical Assessment Services Referral Coordinated by the GAIN Services Workers/Contracted Case Managers Log" every time a direct mental health referral is made and submit the log to the designated person in your office for forwarding to the Specialized Supportive Services Section.

Please continue to refer participants with a substance abuse need to CASC for clinical assessment.

If you have any questions, you may contact Jean Dean via e-mail at JDean@ladpss.org or via telephone at (562) 908-6325.



It's Tax Time Again!
How are Income Tax Refunds treated?

Income Tax Refunds:

Quarterly Reporting (QR) rules state:

Lump sum payments are considered property in the month received, therefore, income tax refunds are property/resource in the month received and subsequent months.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):

The CalWORKs rules regarding EITC follow FS Policy 63-501(m), which states:

Federal EITC, received as a lump sum for a month, are excluded as resource or income.

EITC payment received by any household member shall be excluded for 12 months, providing the household was receiving FS at the time of the receipt of EITC, and participating in CalWORKs continuously during the 12-month period. Continuous participation includes breaks of one month or less, such as late or missing QR 7s.

If it is unclear from the pay stub how much the EITC payment is, the participant or employer, must be contacted for clarification and **LEADER Case Comments** clearly documented.