

# February 2007 CalWORKs Division Newsletter

## SERVICES TO NONCITIZEN VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, & OTHER SERIOUS CRIMES

Effective January 1, 2007, a new state-only program was implemented to extend eligibility for benefits and social services to noncitizen victims of human trafficking and other serious crimes, while they await or prepare to request approval for federally-funded benefits. The new program is entirely state-funded, and is time-limited to 8-months. This new program was enacted due to the passage of Senate Bill 1569.

This new program allows noncitizen victims of trafficking and other serious crimes, who meet CalWORKs program requirements, to receive benefits and services similar to those received by refugees. While the new program mirrors the RCA program, they are separate programs, thus this population cannot be aided as RCA.

Potential eligibility is based in part on the victim's proof that he/she is a victim and that he/she has filed for a T or U Visa with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Pending the release of instructions, districts that receive an application from this population should contact Program staff for guidance.

## REMINDER: NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES REQUIREMENTS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007

As a result of recently passed legislation, effective January 1, 2007, CalWORKs district, GAIN regional, and County-Contracted offices staff are **not** to request the personal identifying information of CalWORKs applicants/participants who are victims of domestic violence from a service provider. Until further notice, only the participants' CalWORKs case number, first name, and year of birth can be requested from a service provider. Please refer to BPP Call-Out #06-11, dated, December 28, 2006 for additional information.

## CalWORKs COLA ADJUSTMENT INCREASE TO THE MBSAC AND IN-KIND AMOUNTS

The 2006-2007 COLA adjustment increased the MBSAC levels by 3.75 percent, effective July 2006. The COLA adjustment also increased the In-Kind amounts by 3.75 percent to be implemented prospectively. Due to the two-year COLA suspension of Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) levels, the current MAP levels will remain unchanged through June 2007.

LEADER programming is underway to update the new MBSAC and In-Kind amounts. Once programming is completed, districts will receive a listing of cases that were solely denied due to failing the income/financial eligibility test from July 1, 2006, to the date when LEADER programming was completed. The listings are to be reviewed to determine financial eligibility using the increased MBSAC.

Instructions and listings will be released upon completion of the LEADER programming.



## THE CW 2.1Q, CHILD SUPPORT QUESTIONNAIRE, IS BACK!

Beginning March 2007, the CW 2.1Q, Child Support Questionnaire will be reinstated for CalWORKs applicants/participants. The form was previously discontinued in March 2003. The form is reinstated to provide CSSD collocated staff with a quick reference of absent parent information during the child support interview. The English and Spanish CW 2.1Q will be generated by LEADER upon completion of the Absent/Unmarried Parent screens. All absent parent information provided by the applicant/participant **MUST** be entered on the Absent/Unmarried Parent screens in order for LEADER to generate the form with the information. The form will need to be completed manually (out of drawer) by non-English/non-Spanish speaking applicants/participants. The applicant/participant must be instructed to give the completed CW 2.1Q, to the CSSD collocated staff during the child support interview.

**NOTE:** The CW 371, DPSS/CSSD Two Way Gram, is used to refer applicants/participants to the child support interview.

Happy Valentine's Day



**THRESHOLD LANGUAGE NOA PROJECT  
REMINDER**

It has come to the attention of the CalWORKs Program through a LEADER-generated report that Eligibility Workers (EWs) are searching and viewing the NOAs. However, EWs are not printing the NOAs, nor are they indicating a reason for not printing. As of January 2007 all districts have access to the Threshold Language Correspondence Queue system.

**REMINDER!!!**

**Attention: GAIN Services Workers (GSWs), County Contracted Managers (CCMs), and GAIN Service Supervisors (GSSs)!** This is to remind you that GAIN participants identified with a mental health and/or substance abuse issue, need to be referred directly to the Community Assessment Service Center (CASC) Service Advocate collocated in each GAIN regional office.

Effective with the release of the **revised** Administrative Directive (AD) 4590, dated 01/25/07, Enhanced Role of The CASC in GAIN offices, upon self-disclosure, or the receipt of the results obtained from administering the existing screening instrument for mental health and substance abuse, the GSWs/CCMs shall immediately transfer the case to the Specialized Supportive Services (SSS) Unit, per existing procedures.

The collocated CASC Service Advocate will:

- Coordinate Clinical Assessment (CLA) appointments and treatment referrals for participants who have been identified as having an SSS need.
- Provide support and advocacy to ensure participants access and engage in CLA and treatment services.

The new role of the collocated CASC Service Advocate in GAIN regional and County-Contracted offices will not impact the CalWORKs districts. Please refer to the above-referenced AD for additional information.

**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, until the end of February 2007. 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 GAIN 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**. Home Interview Program (HIP) EWs at the following District Offices are distributing the Pilot Flyer during the home visit:

- Exposition Park
- Metro Family
- Florence
- Metro North

If the participant requests additional information, staff (EW, GSW, etc.) may refer the participant to:

- 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.

