

CalWORKs Newsletter

January 2007



COLA INCREASE

SSA COLA: The SSA COLA increased benefits by 3.3% effective 12/1/06, which is payable in January 2007. For new/pending cases with Social Security income, the SSA income will be treated as reasonably anticipated income for January 2007. The amount of the SSA benefit, including the increase, is used to determine eligibility for the applicant and in the benefit calculation. For approved cases, the SSA income will be treated as a County initiated Mid-Quarter action decreasing benefits Mid-Quarter. Starting with the QR Data Month of November 2006, the SSA COLA will be reasonably anticipated to be received in the QR Payment Quarter of January/February/March 2007. The income is considered reasonably anticipated income and benefits can be decreased mid-quarter as a county-initiated mid-quarter action. If CalWORKs is discontinued as a result of income exceeding the Income Reporting Threshold (IRT) due to the COLA increase, the FS segment is continued as a Transitional Food Stamp (TFS) case. For all Food Stamp Change Reporting Households, LEADER will apply the SSA COLA increase effective 1/1/07.

THRESHOLD LANGUAGE NOA PROJECT

Did you know that you can now download Threshold Language Notices of Action (NOAs) from LEADER?

Effective January 1, 2007, all 24 district offices can download from LEADER a threshold language NOA. LEADER has added a new feature to the Client Correspondence Subsystem for production of Threshold Language NOAs. The Threshold Language Correspondence Queue displays all NOAs generated by LEADER for threshold language cases and are linked to the corresponding threshold language NOA for printing and manual preparation.

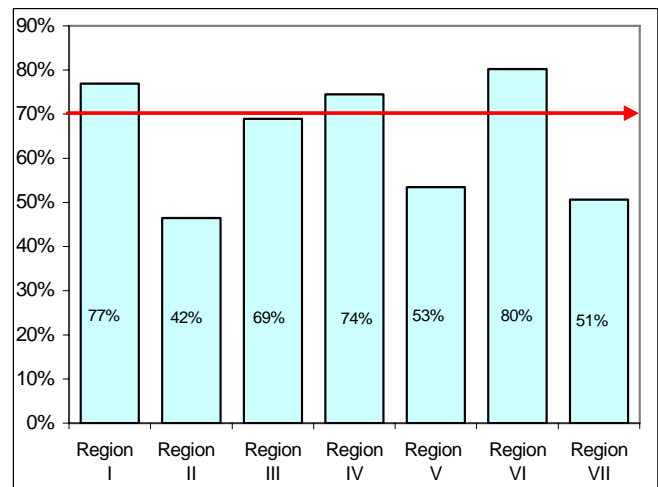
In the development of this NOA project, the old version of the NA Back 9 with the old Appeals and State Hearing address was inadvertently added to all CalWORKs NOAs. CalWORKs Program is working on replacing the NA Back 9. As a temporary solution, until corrections are made, all district offices were provided with labels to place over the incorrect address. Districts are also instructed to cross out the incorrect Appeals and State Hearing Section address and write in the following:

P.O. Box 18890
Los Angeles, CA 90018



TAKE-UP RATE FOR SPECIALIZED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (SSS)

In the month of September 2006, the overall percentage of participants beginning SSS was 64%. The chart below provides the percentage of participants beginning SSS by GAIN Region. Please continue to follow-up with participants and make sure they begin supportive services.



REMINDER TO GAIN SERVICES WORKERS

Upon receipt of the PA 1923, CalWORKs Treatment/Services Verification form, verifying that the participant is actively engaged in specialized supportive services, send the PA 1132 form, "CalWORKs Eligibility Worker/GAIN Services Worker Verification to Services Providers," to the services providers to confirm receipt of the PA 1923 form.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

As a reminder, when the participant makes a request to start his/her Direct Deposit, a copy of the PA 1918, Verification of Benefits Notice along with **Case Profile** and **Case Payee** LEADER screen prints must be attached to the PA 1675. For more information, see AD #4627- Direct Deposit Requests and Cancellations.



SPECIALIZED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES
NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2007

Medi-Cal DEEMED ELIGIBILITY FOR NEWBORNS

When a CalWORKs participant was eligible to Medi-Cal in the month that she gave birth, the newborn is eligible for Medi-Cal beginning with the month of birth, **REGARDLESS OF THE ACTUAL REPORT DATE**. This is due to Medi-Cal Deemed Eligibility (DE). LEADER evaluates Medi-Cal DE **ONLY** when the **Pregnancy Information** and **Case Individual Information** screens are completed and the mother and infant are living together in the birth month.

The **Pregnancy Information** screen must be updated with the newborn's birth **PRIOR** to adding the newborn as an individual to the case (if not already completed). The first day (1st of the month) of the newborn's birth month must be entered in the Valid From field **and** the infant's date of birth in the Pregnancy End Date field.

EXAMPLE: A baby is born on 06/29/2006, and the birth is not reported until 12/12/2006. The Valid From date in the **Pregnancy Information** screen will be 06/01/06, the Pregnancy End Date will be 06/29/2006, but the Report Date will be 12/12/2006.

Once the **Pregnancy Information** screen is updated, add the infant's information in the **Case Individual Information** screen. The Valid From date is the infant's date of birth and the Report Date is the date the information was reported.

Note: The beginning date of cash aid is the first of the month after the birth is reported.

References: LEADER Handbook CW 44-318.1; LEADER Individual Procedures: Add Individual- To A Case, Pregnancy Information-Ending A Pregnancy.

Welcome to the CalWORKs Section



THE CalWORKs SECTION WELCOMES A NEW ADDITION!

It is with great enthusiasm that the CalWORKs Section announces the addition of Connie Monreal, Acting Program Assistant, to its support staff. Connie has been employed with DPSS for 16 years as an EW and ES in the Cudahy District Office. Connie joins us with a wealth of customer service expertise as she has successfully handled numerous assignments including Child Care Coordinator, Direct Deposit Liaison, Tribal TANF Liaison, and Housing Program Coordinator. Welcome to the CalWORKs Section family Connie!

In an effort to assist CalWORKs participants in need of Specialized Supportive Services (SSS), the SSS Section will be implementing new programs designed to fully engage these participants in WtW activities. The SSS Section will closely monitor participants' progress at various intervals which will involve DPSS staff and service providers. Here's a sneak preview of what is to come in 2007:

Dual Assessment Process: consists of an upfront assessment component with clinical and vocational assessments. This will provide the case management team with more information regarding the SSS needs of the participant and level of employability.

Case Progress Review (CPR): will allow more active communication between the Specialized GSW and the service providers. The GSW and service provider will meet at set intervals to evaluate and assess the participant's progress in attaining WtW goals.

SSI Advocacy Component: will provide a supported activity to assist participants with SSS needs who are potentially eligible for SSI due to a physical, medical and/or mental health disability. The participant will receive assistance in completing the SSI application, gathering evidence for the SSI claim and filing appeals if necessary.

Peer Mentor Program: will allow participants to gain work experience while still accessing treatment on an as-needed basis.

Specialized Work Experience Component: will be similar to the existing WEX component, but will have an inventory of service providers that are able to deliver a more flexible work experience activity that will accommodate the needs of the SSS participants.

Specialized Combined Vocational Training/Life Skills Component: will serve as a stepping stone for pts who are not yet ready to engage in a typical employment-related activity due to SSS issues. This component will assist those participants in transitioning into an employment-related activity and provide additional support.

"We must work unceasingly to uplift this nation that we love to a higher destiny, to a higher plateau of compassion, to a more noble expression of humanness"

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

