

June 2007

CalWORKs Division Newsletter

Changes to the Rental Assistance Program

Did you know that changes to the 4-month Rental Assistance (RA) program were effective with the release of Administrative Directive # 4652, dated 05/03/07?

The new policy changes increased the maximum subsidy amount from \$250.00 to \$300.00 per month depending on the family size (▪ \$200/month for a family of up to 2; ▪ \$250/month for a family of 3; ▪ \$300/month for a family of 4 or more).

Prior to the policy changes, families who were eligible to receive Homeless Assistance Permanent Housing or Moving Assistance were offered the 4-month RA program. Effective May 3, 2007, RA is also available to families who are working with a Housing Locator (HL). For those families who find housing with the assistance of the HL, the amount of the rental subsidy is added to the Total Monthly Household Income (TMHI). Including the rental subsidy to the TMHI helps both the family and the HL expand the search for affordable housing.

HCMs will be working closely with GAIN Services Workers (GSWs) and Job Developers in providing intensive case management to assist families who are placed in permanent housing with the assistance of an HL and received the 4-month rental subsidy. Finding employment or referring the families to Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) will help ensure that the families are able to pay their rent beyond the 4-month period.

Happy Father's Day



DIRECT RENT IS HERE

With the June 8th implementation in LEADER, Direct Rent is here for CalWORKs participants. Direct Rent pays the participant's rent, from the CalWORKs aid payment, directly to the landlord when a **mandatory** member of the Assistance Unit (AU) has a felony drug conviction dated on or after January 1, 1998. Direct Rent payments are also available to CalWORKs participants who want to volunteer to have the rent paid directly to the landlord.

A Direct Rent Payment:

- Is paid from the CalWORKs aid payment and is counted as part of the public assistance grant;
- Is used in computing Food Stamp allotments;
- Is issued on the 1st of each month, and for the current month's rent.

If the Direct Rent payment only pays for a portion of the rent, the participant is responsible for any remaining rent or balances. Any cash aid remaining after the rent is paid, is available to the participant via the EBT card or through Direct Deposit.

Direct Rent training was provided on May 29, 2007 for all affected staff. An Administrative Directive releasing policy and procedures and a Forms Manual Letter releasing the Direct Rent forms will be released soon.

REMINDER!!!

Attention **Homeless Case Managers (HCM), Homeless CalWORKs Families Project (HCFP) Eligibility Workers and HCFP GAIN Services Workers!** This is to remind you to continue to submit your success stories via the "Success Story" report. Anytime a family finds permanent housing, completes an educational goal, finds employment, etc., remember to complete and submit the "Success Story" report. HCM success stories will be published in the HCM Newsletter.

REMINDER!!!

Attention **GAIN Services Workers (GSWs), Contracted Case Managers (CCMs) and GAIN Services Supervisors!** This is to reiterate existing emergency supportive services referral procedures, as per Administrative Directive (AD) #4163, Emergency Supportive Services Referral Procedures, dated 04/15/02.

When a participant is experiencing a crisis, such as when he/she appears to be very upset and is in no way capable to continue with the normal GAIN flow of the day or be sent home alone, but is not a danger to self or others, the GSWs/CCMs are to call the appropriate department hotline numbers for assistance, as follows:

- For domestic violence, contact the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Hotline at **1-800-978-3600**;
- For mental health services, contact the Psychiatric Emergency Team at **1-800-854-7771**; or
- For substance abuse; contact the CASC staff at **1-800-564-6600**.

The GSWs/CCMs should never put themselves, co-workers, and/or the co-located CASC Service Advocates at risk. Therefore, if the GSWs/CCMs fear for the safety of staff or the participant, they should call 911 for assistance and notify/consult with their administrators immediately.

The above-referenced AD provides instructions on what to do during an emergency situation. For updated procedures on referrals to clinical assessment, please refer to the Revised AD #4590, Enhanced Role of the CASC in GAIN Offices, dated 01/25/07.

(Note: on page 2 of AD #4163, the DV Hotline number has been changed. The correct number is listed above.)

“The real men of achievement are people who have the heroism to fuel more and more enthusiasm in their work when they face more and more difficulties”

- Author Unknown

Museums and Gardens Brochure and Big!World!Fun! Flyer

This is to announce the special mailing of the Museums and Gardens Brochure and Ford Amphitheatre’s Big!World!Fun!Flyer in June. This special mailer will be sent to all CalWORKs families and Food Stamp households with minor children. The brochure will provide details of the various museums and gardens and the flyer will provide a schedule of the free Summer 2007 events starting in July. A supply of brochures/flyers will also be delivered to all CalWORKs districts. Please ensure that newly approved families receive a copy of this information.

GAIN/CHILD SUPPORT OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

The GAIN/Child Support Outreach and Engagement Program was implemented in March of 2007. The purpose of the program is to increase GAIN participation and Child Support compliance by engaging sanctioned individuals when they come in for their annual CalWORKs re-determination. This is to remind Eligibility Staff of the importance of referring GAIN and Child Support sanctioned participants to the Outreach and Engagement GSW collocated in each district office, after completing the yearly re-determination. Listings of sanctioned participants are provided monthly by CalWORKs Deputies. You may refer to AD # 4633, dated 03/01/07, for more details and instructions.

