



CalWORKs DIVISION MARCH 2005 NEWSLETTER

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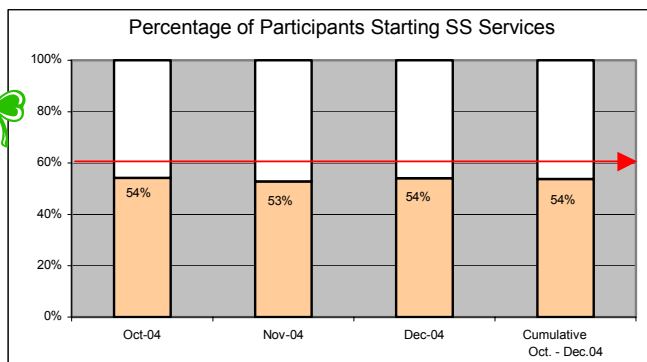
DEPARTMENTAL GOAL FOR SPECIALIZED SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Our Departmental goal for 10/04 - 9/05 for Specialized Supportive Services (SSS) is to increase participation in SSS by conducting appropriate follow-up to ensure that at least 60% of participants referred to services begin receiving services. Department wide, from October 2004 - December 2004, 1446 cases were referred for SSS. Here is what happened with those referrals:



**ATTENTION ALL PARENTS!
THE EXPO PARK CHILD CARE CENTER WILL
OPEN IN MAY 2005.**

If you are interested in enrolling your child, touring the center or would like more information on any of the DPSS child care centers, please contact Nadia Varela at (562) 908-6780 or e-mail at nvarela@ladpss.org.



We're 6% away from our Goal. Here is what you can do to help the Department meet this goal:

1. Follow-up to remind participants of their upcoming supportive services appointment.
2. Ensure that child care and transportation are authorized.
3. Promptly reschedule participants, as needed.
4. Be supportive and sensitive to the needs of participants with supportive services issues.

Together we can achieve our goal.

GOOD NEWS!

The Telstar Montessori Child Care Center IS NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS! The center is located at 9320 Telstar Avenue, El Monte, California 91731. For more information on enrollment or to take a tour of the facility, please contact Nadia Varela at (562) 908-6780 or you may contact Nelum Balasuriya, Center Site Director at (626) 312-6381.

ABOUT HOMELESS COURT

This program was created to help impoverished individuals with a history of homelessness to clear tickets and warrants for minor offenses such as traffic tickets, infractions, and various minor misdemeanors including jaywalking, riding the metro without a fare, sleeping in public places, illegal use of shopping carts, possession of an open container of alcohol in public, obstructing traffic on the sidewalk, sleeping on a bus bench, as well as any warrants that arise for failure to resolve these offenses.

EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS TO HOMELESS CalWORKs FAMILIES

Effective April 1, 2005, the Temporary Homeless Assistance Program (THAP)+14 and Rental Subsidy Assistance (RA) will be expanded to include GAIN exempt and "child only" cases who are meeting all other program requirements.

Additionally, after conducting a three-month pilot at the Metro North District #38, the Department is now ready to implement, countywide, the Homeless Court Program for homeless CalWORKs families.

To qualify for the program, applicants must meet the criteria indicated below.

- The applicant must have completed a minimum of 90 days of continuous, satisfactory participation in a rehabilitative program.
- Applicants must not have received any new violations within the past six months.
- The tickets and warrants they want to clear must have occurred within Los Angeles County.
- The offense cannot involve a victim, a weapon, or the possession or sales of drugs.
- Individuals must not have any outstanding felony warrants.

REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE

Did you know that all reception and placement cash provided by Voluntary Agencies (VOLAGS) to refugees is not counted as income when determining the applicant's/participant's eligibility for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)? To ensure that all reception and placement cash received by refugees is exempt on LEADER for determining eligibility for RCA go to:

1. **Subsystems - Data Collections Screen.**
2. **Sponsor Agency Screen.**
 - Type - Enter "Amount" (cash received by VOLAG).**
 - Name - Sponsor Agency Name (select from the drop down).**
3. **Unearned Income Summary Screen (select "Detail" button and enter all information).**
 - Type - Cash Contributions Private Non-Profit.**
 - Source - Non-Profit Organization.**
 - Frequency type, etc.**
4. **Unearned Income Screen (select "Income" button and enter all information).**
 - Complete all information date, amount, Lump Sum "N."**
 - Select "One-Time-Only" field (indicate "yes").**

Note: For each month reception and placement cash is reported on the **"Income Received/Estimated Screen"** you must provide a **"yes"** response to the **"One Time Only"** prompt to ensure the cash is exempt on LEADER. Failure to do so will result in reception and placement cash being deducted from the RCA grant, causing a significant decrease in the cash grant received by the refugee.

Additional refugee policy information will soon be released in the LEADER Handbook CalWORKs Policy Section, Refugee Resettlement Programs, CW 69-200.

REDETERMINATION TIPS

Did you know that when a CalWORKs case has been terminated and is then rescinded and the redetermination is due within 60 days, LEADER does not generate a redetermination appointment packet? That's right, LEADER will NOT generate a redetermination appointment packet even after the case has been rescinded.

To ensure the participant receives the redetermination appointment packet, you must follow these simple steps:

- When you rescind a case, always check the redetermination month on LEADER (*Authorization & Wrap-up/View Redetermination Screen*).
- If the redetermination is due within 60 days of the rescission, manually send a redetermination packet to the participant.
- Control the case until the redetermination has been completed.

Congratulations, now that you have followed these simple steps you have avoided another termination!






QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Q. **When the AU receives a child support payment directly from the absent parent, how is the income treated for CalWORKs?**
- A. Although child support paid directly to the AU by the absent parent does not count for food stamps (see BPP Call Out No. 05-02), it counts as unearned income (minus the \$50 disregard) for CalWORKs. The child support continues to count until the payments are provided directly to the Child Support Services Department (CSSD)/Court Trustee. If the child support payments are for a Maximum Family Grant (MFG) child, the payments are exempt.

For additional details see the LEADER Handbook: CalWORKs Policy Section, CW 44-113.7 - Child Support, CW 82-500, Child Support Enforcement Regulations and the LEADER individual Procedure: Income - Child/Spousal Support.

Reminder!!!! - The CW 2.1Q, Support Questionnaire, was cancelled in 2002. All absent parent information is now captured on the mandatory LEADER Absent/Unmarried Parent screen.





Redetermination Update - Absent Parent Information

DPSS and the Child Support Services Department (CSSD) are working together to improve the lives of families. In this effort, the PA 6010 (Redetermination Update On Absent Parent Information) form is used during the redetermination interview to obtain key information that will assist CSSD in locating the absent parent. The new/revised information is updated by the EW on LEADER and the form is given to CSSD collocated staff. CSSD divisional staff then follows up on the new/revised information and continues with child support collection actions.