

# CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News

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## In Brief

**San Bernardino County's Apparent Violation of Food Stamp-Expedited Service Rules.** Interim Instruction Notice, IIN #08-062, a county policy issuance instrument of San Bernardino County, has instructed its staff to issue a "trouble ticket" and call the matter into the so-called "Help Center" when the computer incorrectly denies expedited service food stamps. There is no mention of how to make sure that the three-day expedited service food stamp issuance time line is obeyed.

**DSS Federal Data Reporting and Analysis Bureau Office Moves.** The Federal Data Reporting and Analysis Bureau has moved to 2450 Del Paso Road, Suite 250, M.S. 20-57, Sacramento, CA 95834. The main number is (916) 515-3525. There are three units located at this new address: Data Transmission and Validation Unit headed by Lee Macias, Trend Analysis headed by Trish Rodriguez and Work Participation Rate Unit headed by Karen Kennedy.

**County 2006 Federal Work Participation Rates (FWPR) Coming Soon.** In a June of 2008 meeting with counties, DSS said that, in July, they would be mailing to counties their annual participation rates for 2006. July has come and gone and still no FWPR numbers from DSS; maybe in September we will find out. DSS will be mailing each county a preliminary FWPR to see what they think before it is final. Someday clients will be able to mail their workers a preliminary QR-7 before a final version is mailed. Yeah. Nice dreaming.

**SB 1569 Clients Eligible For Child Care.** On July 10, 2008, Sheila Early of DPSS asked DSS if a family receiving CalWORKs under SB 1569, which is a state-only program, are eligible for Stage One Child Care. On July 22, 2008 DSS responded "Yes. If a client is eligible for, and receiving CalWORKs based on the rules in SB 1569, the client may also be eligible for Stage One child care services."

**Special Rates for Non-Potty Trained Kids OK.** On June 17, 2008, Susan West of Monterey County asked DSS if a provider could have a different rate for children between 3-5 who are not potty trained.

On July 23, 2008, DSS responded; "There is nothing in the regulation that prohibits a provider from establishing a special rate for a child who is not potty trained, as long as the provider is charging other members of the public the same established special rates and it does not exceed the regional market rates."

**Santa Clara County Does Not Process IEVS Hits on Time.** Based on a letter from DSS on 6/13/08, Will Lightbourne of Santa Clara County was informed that since April 2006, the county had failed to process 4,172 cases per quarter for six consecutive quarters. Thus, Santa Clara County is failing to inform clients of potential overpayments within the 45-day time lines established by state and federal regulations.

**Counties Make Errors in Refugee Cash Assistance Program.** DSS periodically reviews the county refugee assistance programs. In a June 13, 2008 letter, Sacramento County was informed that 8 of the 10 case files reviewed were out of compliance with the state and federal rules. In one case, a refugee who was over 60 years old was forced to register for work when he/she was exempt. Orange County had 11 cases reviewed and in 5 cases there were problems, such as, not providing applicants with RCA rights and responsibilities in their own language. In another case there were 32 notices of action issued and only two (2) were in the language of the RCA recipient.

## Statistical Fact

The law requires that expedited service Food Stamp benefits (ES-FS) be issued in 3 days. These are households in need of emergency assistance for food. They are hungry kids in many cases and need food to eat. During April 1 through June 30, California counties disposed of 162,995 requests for ES-FS. 92,877 of those requests were denied. 70,118 were granted, but 10,138 those found eligible for emergency food assistance were issued such food assistance beyond the three-day time line established by law. That is a 14% violation of the law by counties. There are no penalties in the law for counties not providing emergency food to hungry kids.

Source: DSS Documents