

CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News

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In Brief

- **CalWIN Mails Notices of Action with Wrong Date** - CalWIN, the infamous computer system riddled with problems, mails out notices of action (NOA) a week after the date of the NOA. Families generally have 10 days from the date of the NOA to ask for a hearing and receive continued benefits. With CalWIN, families sometimes get the NOA's after the first of the month.
- **80% of the State Hearings Staff Can Retire** - We have been told that 80% of the state hearings division staff can retire. This will cripple the California hearing system which is one of the best in the country.
- **Fraud Investigators Do Not Comply with California Civil Rights Law** - We have been told by reliable sources that welfare fraud investigators do not comply with California civil rights law. They often interview and take evidence from persons in English when English is not their primary language. This is a violation of their civil rights.
- **Welfare Position Statements Not Translated** - California counties are violating California civil rights law by providing persons with position statements in English when their primary language is not English. According to Welf.& Inst. Code Section 10952.5 the position statement shall be available two working days before the state hearing.

WHAT IS THE TRUE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE?

The California unemployment rate for October, 2008 was 8.2%. Does that mean that 91.8% of the people who can work are working? No. That simply means that 1.5 million people are receiving unemployment benefits in California. Thus, it is assumed that these are the only unemployed people in California. This excludes most welfare recipients who are going to Job Club and are forced to look for non-existent jobs, persons whose unemployment insurance benefits have run out and more job seekers like students, etc.

To determine the *true* unemployment rate, we looked at the number of people in California between the ages of 20 through 64 at <http://www.dof.ca.gov/html/DEMOGRAP/ReportsPapers/Projections/P3/P3.php>, which are the official numbers from California Department of Finance - it is about 32 million people.

The State of California Labor Market Review for October

2008 asserts that there are 17.2 million persons working. They then add the 1.5 million persons getting unemployment insurance benefits to the 17.2 million people working and allege that the workforce is only 18.6 million. What about the 13.4 million people out there whose unemployment benefits have been exhausted, are on welfare or just can't find a job? Now maybe you can exclude some folks for being disabled. That can be 3.4 million people. How about the remaining 10 million? The unemployment rate is deceiving and it needs reform to match reality.

County Welfare Department Client Abuse Report

Ms. C.S. of Los Angeles County applied for CalWORKS and Food Stamps on 10-1-08 and asked for Immediate Need and Expedited Food Stamps. She had her first appointment on 10-7-08. This is a violation Welfare and Institution Code §11266(b), which mandates that the Immediate Need appointment be scheduled on the date of application, but no later than the next working day.

She was issued CalWORKS Immediate Need in the amount of \$200 on or after 10-7-08, about 5-6 days after the legal deadline for issuance of Immediate Need, but no expedited food stamps.

DPSS lush with money requires a home visit for all applicants - a very costly administrative procedure. DPSS states that they did three home visits. The first was on 10-29-08 at 10:40 am. Ms. C.S. said that no one came to her house that day. The county then states that on 10-30-08 they made another attempt at 10 am. She was not home because she had a job interview. The third home call was made on 11-6-08. She was at the welfare office that day trying to figure out what was happening with her application.

Her 10-1-08 application was denied because the county was not able to make a home visit, even though they had all necessary verification to clear eligibility. She and her family were unlawfully denied food stamp benefits for 50 days. She was also unlawfully denied expedited service food stamp benefits. A violation of Welfare and Institutions Code § 18914.

Her food stamps were finally issued on November 20, 2008 going back to 10-1-08 after the welfare advocate contacted the county to determine why her benefits were being withheld and why the county was violating the CalWORKS Immediate Need and Food Stamp expedited Service laws. Her food stamps were 47 days late.