

CCWRO Welfare News

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Breaking News - New ACL for Short Term Exemptions Will Not Require Curing the Sanction

We have been told by sources in the Schwarzenegger Administration that the new ACL implementing AB X4 4 amended W&IC Section 11320.3 short-term exemptions, would not require exempt families to cure the sanction. However, we also understand that the ACL does not address what relief would be provided to families with a child who is from 12 to 23 months of age, or two or more children who are under six years of age, who have been sanctioned unlawfully since August 1, 2009.

On July 28, 2009, the State Legislature passed AB X4 4 (Chapter 4, Statutes of the Fourth Extraordinary Session of 2009) that contained short-term changes to the CalWORKs program which became effective on July 28, 2009.

62 days later, September 30, 2009, a draft ACL was born to implement the provisions of AB X4 4 amended W&IC Section 11320.3. This draft provided that if the sanction occurred after July 28, 2009, rather than stopping the sanctions against an exempt person, the exempt person would have to ask for the exemption that the law already provides for. If sanction happened before 7-28-09, the family will be forced to cure the sanction. Advocates and counties object to this policy which violates the law. Counties also objected to the added administrative costs that this draft ACL imposes on them.

It is now November, over 90 days later and thousands of impoverished parents with one child from 12 to 23 months of age, or two or more children under six years of age, are still being sanctioned in violation of state law.

WTW TRANSPORTATION DEPRIVES POOR FAMILIES \$3.6 MILLION IN AUGUST OF 2009

Table #1 below reveals the amount of dollars that counties deprived welfare-to-work (WtW) participants for WtW transportation supportive services during August of 2009, according to DSS's WtW 25 reports. In August, 2009, there were 148,122 welfare recipients living on a fixed income below 50% of the poverty level who were required to participate a welfare-to-work activity and entitled to transportation, but 76,443 families (48%) were not given transportation assistance. This is like 48% of county welfare department employees not claiming travel expenses incurred. Pretty far fetched? Yes. And what did this cost California's poor in August of 2009? \$3.6 million. Is there any government investigation of this injustice? No.

August 2009	Unduplicated Participants	Participants Receiving Transport.	Percentage Not Receiving Transport.	Money Taken From Poor Families During 8-09
Statewide	148,122	76,443	48%	\$3,583,950.00
Tulare	3,945	274	93%	\$183,550.00
Ventura	1,864	208	89%	\$82,800.00
San Luis Ob.	961	118	88%	\$42,150.00
Kern	5,379	1,353	75%	\$201,300.00
San Mateo	830	210	75%	\$31,000.00
Butte	912	242	73%	\$33,500.00
Contra Costa	3,304	926	72%	\$118,900.00
Yolo	813	234	71%	\$28,950.00
Stanislaus	2,597	761	71%	\$91,800.00
Alameda	5,942	1,843	69%	\$204,950.00
Orange	4,616	1,497	68%	\$155,950.00
Sacramento	12,146	4,214	65%	\$396,600.00
San Joaquin	4,267	1,532	64%	\$136,750.00
Fresno	8,728	3,572	59%	\$257,800.00
San Fran.	1,678	707	58%	\$48,550.00
Solano	1,162	511	56%	\$32,550.00
San Diego	10,191	5,074	50%	\$255,850.00
Santa Cruz	731	364	50%	\$18,350.00
Nevada	299	155	48%	\$7,200.00
Sonoma	1,361	743	45%	\$30,900.00
Riverside	7,963	4,774	40%	\$159,450.00
Santa Clara	4,657	3,047	35%	\$80,500.00
Los Angeles	36,108	26,707	26%	\$470,050.00