

# CCWRO Welfare News

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## Welfare-to-Work Where are the Jobs?

California has lost 1.2 million jobs since 2007. California has been growing and will need another 650,000 more jobs, in addition to the lost 1.2 million jobs to catch up in 2012. There are 14 people applying for every three available jobs.

Today in CalWORKs every parent with one child over the age of 2 years, and parents with two or more children who are both over age six, are forced to go to job club to compete for these scarce jobs. Valuable taxpayer dollars are spent to force recipients through this charade that they are going to get a job and become self-sufficient. California spends over \$1.5 billion on jobs and services. Notably, 53% of the WtW participants are already working as of August 2011.

Moreover, an estimated 50% of welfare recipients who are participating and working are not receiving the transportation supportive services that they are entitled to. This means that the counties are wrongfully denying an estimated \$50 million a year from poor families to have more money available in their so-called "single allocation". This estimate is based on the assumption that the average cost of monthly transportation is \$62 a month which is an underestimate. The true cost of transportation is about \$1.39 a mile. <http://commutesolutions.org/external/calc.html> Welfare recipients incur higher costs because their cars are not energy efficient.

The WtW program should be a mandatory program if and when there are jobs available and not when there are 14 people fighting for three jobs.

## CCWRO NEWSLETTER ERRATA #2011-20

CCWRO Newsletter #2011-20 stated that counties lost \$276 million from their single allocation. That was an error. The correct amount is \$376 million.

CCWRO received a comment from Jodie Berger of Legal Services of Northern California who stated there is a transparency problem with the county single allocation. Counties are supposed to serve exempt participants who volunteer if they have the money to do so. However, counties do not inform exempt participants of this right. Given the fact that counties do not inform volunteer participants of their right to services, the only reasonable option to mandate counties to serve volunteers unless they publicize that volunteers have a right to request services from counties.

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## AB 109 - law Enforcement Realigning CalWORKs Impact

Under AB 109, which provides that non-violent felons will be placed in county jails in lieu of state prisons, counties have the flexibility to find alternatives to county jail time, such as home arrest, etc.

It is possible that CalWORKs recipients and Food Stamp household members (HH) members will no longer be incarcerated and, if under house arrest, could be members of the CalWORKs assistance units (AU) or food stamp household. Counties have received no guidance from DSS as to how to treat these AU and HH members. Are they eligible for CalWORKs and Food Stamps? Are they required to meet the federal work participation rates if they are under home arrest?