

# CCWRO Welfare News

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March 5, 2013  
Issue #2013-04

## The 2013-2014 state budget provides for a \$143 million increase in the county single allocation.

We have just received numbers from the Department of Social Services showing how counties are using single allocation dollars for 2012-2013. **TABLE #1** below reveals counties under utilization of currently appropriated dollars, notwithstanding the immense need for services in our community, such a child care, mental health, substance abuse and other supportive services including transportation for WtW participants.

During 2011-2012 counties failed to use \$185 million of the single allocation. Of that, \$125 million was designated for childcare. \$45 million of the used funds appropriated was NOT used for food stamp administration.

<b>TABLE #1</b> <i>Source DSS</i> <b>Program</b>	<b>Quarterly Allocation NOT Used</b>	<b>Percentage of Quarterly Allocation NOT Used</b>
CalWORKs Eligibility	\$21,570,024	14%
Child Care	\$50,943,225	47%
Employment Services	\$ 42,643,793	22%
Mental Health Services	\$15,332,866	80%
Substance Abuse Services	\$9,122,526	72%
CalFresh Administration	\$35,199,826	26%
<b>TOTAL COUNTY SINGLE ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$109,437,508</b>	<b>24%</b>

It appears that this trend continues while the Governor proposes to give counties an additional \$143 million for 2013-2014, knowing that at the end of the year it will come back to the state general fund just as the \$185 million of the single allocation in 2011-2012. Meanwhile, CalWORKs families live on the same fixed income levels as in 1986 with no COLA.

## Bad CalWin Notices of Action keep coming.

On 2/5/13, Ms. 1B47K97 received a notice of action (NOA) stating, "Your benefits under Section 1931(b) program will be discontinued effective 02/28/2013. Here's why: Your income is over the limit." She also received a NOA stating, "Effective 02/28/2013 your Food Stamp benefits have been stopped. Here's why: "Your gross income exceeds the Food Stamp gross income limit." These are some of NOAs generated by CalWIN in 18 counties. These two notices came from Sacramento County. Neither notice specifies what the recipient's income was, or what the gross income limits are.

## FRESNO COUNTY DENIES CHILD CARE PAYMENTS FOR LATE CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT WHILE FAILING TO SPEND 47% OF THE CHILD CARE MONEY RECEIVED FROM THE STATE DURING 2011-2012.

A Fresno County Yvonne Lombera official complained to DSS about losing state hearings when Fresno county denied payment for childcare that was incurred while the participant participated in an assigned activity, but submitted the child care claim forms after 90 days. This has been a long time Fresno County policy. Ms. Lombera felt that payment for childcare incurred should not be reimbursed because the CalWORKs recipients did

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not submit a timely request for reimbursement for childcare. During 2011-2012 Fresno County was allocated \$19,226,151 for childcare but returned \$9,041,423 back to the State because Fresno County could not find persons eligible for childcare. Meanwhile, Fresno County would deny payments to a childcare worker who works for less than minimum wage on a technicality that is not supported by state regulations. On 12/6/12 DSS informed Fresno County that the state regulation "...does not support a county policy that allow denial of child care payments based upon submission of late attendance sheets."

After receiving an answer that Fresno County Policy is unlawful, Yvone Lombera asked DSS to reconsider the DSS policy because it conflicted with the policy of the Department of Education Management Bulletin 12-18. We wonder how many workers in Fresno County being paid less than minimum wage were denied child care payments because of this illegal policy.

**On-line public assistance applications more likely to be denied than in-person applications.**

During a meeting of advocates and Los Angeles County DPSS it was revealed that 48% of the on-line applications submitted to Los Angeles County are denied. At that meeting DPSS tried to comfort Los Angeles area advocates by pointing out that Benefits CalWIN denies 68% of the applications and C4yourself denies 76% of the cases. During December, 2012, 37.5% of the total applications for CalWORKs and Food Stamps were denied. DPSS asserted that 23% of the applications were denied for failure to verify identity. This is for cases where DPSS had the applicants' social security number and could have easily verified identity through databases available to the county. But that would mean approving an application. The lesson is on-line applications denials are higher because the "county welfare department culture" continues to be to "deny applications" rather than trying to find a way to approve the applications. See **Table #2** below.

<b>T A B L E</b>	<b>Application Processors</b>	<b>Percentage of application Denial</b>
	LEADER-YBN	48%
	BenefitsCalWIN	68%
	C4yourself	76%
<b># 2</b>	<b>Statewide application denial rate not applying on line</b>	<b>37%</b> Source: DPSS

**Los Angeles County instructs DPSS staff to violate state food stamps and CalWORKS regulations**

DPSS has released a new policy issuance known as Administrative Memorandum (AM)13-01.

This AM was issued in response to a 2011 DSS Management Evaluation that found DPSS asking applicants to complete two (2) food stamp applications. The county was asked to take corrective action.

The AM 13-01 was cleared through five (5) different sections of DPSS, including the Bureau of Administrative Services, Bureau of Program and Policy, Bureau of Special Operations, Bureau of Workforce Services and the Bureau of Contract of Technical Services. It was signed by Anjetta Venter-Bowles, Director of the Bureau of Workforce Services.

The AM 13-01 mandates that the Customer Service Representative "... in the district office lobbies must not provide the DFA285A1 Application for Food Stamp Benefits, the SAWS1....The Receptionist must provide the LEADER generated SAW1 only for the applicant to sign it. Once the SAWS1 is signed, the Receptionist must provide the CF applicant with the PA 6091 "Household Member Information Form," the DFA 285A2... The DFA 285A1 must not be provided to the applicant." There are two major messages here: #1. Never give an applicant a DFA285A1 or a SAWS1 to complete. (**VIOLATION OF MPP§ 63-300.34.**) #2. The SAWS1 has to be completed by the Receptionist and the applicant must sign it or leave the office. (**VIOLATION OF MPP§ 40-129.33.**)

**The State Regulations**

*MPP §63-300.34 "The CWD shall make application forms readily accessible to potentially eligible households. The application form shall be provided to anyone who requests the form."*

*MPP §40-129.33 The county shall not complete the Immediate Need section of the application or the Immediate Need Payment Request (CA 4, 9/90), except at the applicant's specific request.*