



CCWRO Welfare News-2019-07

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Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.
1111 Howe Ave • Suite 150 • Sacramento • CA 95825-8551
Telephone (916) 736-0616 • Cell (916) 712-0071 • Fax (916) 736-2645

LOS ANGELES DPSS VICTIMS

LADPSS CAUSES CalWORKs HOMELESS-NEES - Ms. B1QQB24 completed her CalWORKs redetermination online. DPSS sent her a letter telling her that she had a telephone interview for 7-3-19. Nobody called as promised. She contacted the call center and they told her that a worker would call her on 7-15-19. Again, nobody called. There are thousands of Ms. B1QQB24s in Los Angeles. If the CalWORKs parent fails to complete the interview because the worker never called, all of the benefits will still be terminated at the beginning of the next month. Many such families are homeless today because they were not able to pay for their rent and got evicted. What happens to the county welfare administrators who are running a flawed process? Nothing. In 2019-2010, counties receive more single allocation *block grant* money that can be used any way they want.

LADPSS WELFARE FRAUD DEPARTMENT HAS NOW BECOME THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT - Ms. BOK8B91 received a Notice of Action (NOA) from the Los Angeles County West Valley office stating “As of 12-1-18, the County is stopping your CALFRESH.

Here’s why:

You failed to show up for your scheduled appointment with our Fraud Department that was scheduled for 8/3/18.”

The alleged authorities for this action, according to LRS, are regulations §63-300 through 63-505 -178 pages. The NOA specifically cites 63.300-301 and 63-300.505.

MPP §22.001(a)(1) states that NOA must have “the specific regulations supporting such actions.” Nowhere on any of the 178 pages does it state that CalFresh can be terminated for failure to keep an appointment with the “County Fraud Department.”

On the same day this victim received a NOA terminating CalWORKs benefits. The NOA states “As if 12-1-18, the County is stopping your Cash Aid.

Here’s why:

You failed to show up for your scheduled appointment with our Fraud Department that was scheduled for 8/3/18.”

The NOA cites MPP 40-105.1 as the basis of the action terminating CalWORKs benefits for the crime of not meeting with the Fraud Department. Again, the word “fraud” does not appear anywhere in §40-105.1.

Finally, welfare fraud is a criminal matter and CalWORKs and CalFresh beneficiaries still have a few Constitutional rights, like the right to have an attorney before they have a meeting with criminal prosecutors. Maybe Los Angeles County had decided that the Fifth Amendment does not apply to CalWORKs and CalFresh beneficiaries.

County Mismanagement of IEVS Causes Extreme Hardship and Waste

A common LA County welfare fraud case is when the fraud investigator contacts a former CalWORKs recipient and charges the person with a felony welfare fraud for failure to report income to the welfare office years ago. Sometimes the welfare fraud bureaucrat will go to the former CalWORKs recipient's workplace. The fraud unit sends the current employer notice on the welfare fraud letterhead seeking wage information about an employee. Some of the letters contain a nice big law enforcement badge designed to freak out the employer to give information to the welfare fraud bureaucrats.

Criminalization of the public benefit system has been a long-standing policy for California's welfare administrators. Just go to the welfare office in Los Angeles and see a big line to go through security to get in the office and apply for benefits or get information. Most of these welfare offices in California have security guards or uniformed police officers hanging around the welfare office intimidating public benefit beneficiaries.

State law requires that the IEVS hit be processed within 45 days. An "IEVS hit" is when information reported to the county is inconsistent with information employers report to the state and federal tax agencies.

In most counties, the IEVS hits are processed by the welfare fraud bureaucracy known as the Special Investigative Unit. This is the so-called "law and order" part of the welfare system.

Current federal rules prescribe that the IEVS match follow-up shall be completed within 45 days of the date the state agency completes the match. 7 CFR 272.8 (c)(2). State agencies must initiate and pursue the actions on recipient households specified in [paragraph \(c\)\(1\)](#) of

this section so that the actions are completed within 45 days of receipt of the information items. Actions may be completed later than 45 days from the receipt of information if:

- (i) The only reason that the actions cannot be completed is the nonreceipt of verification requested from collateral contacts; and
- (ii) The actions are completed as specified in [§ 273.12](#) of this chapter when verification from a collateral contact is received or in conjunction with the next case action when such verification is not received, whichever is earlier.

See also MPP §20-006.421.

For the months of October, November and December 2018 Los Angeles County received 38,022 IEVS hits from CDSS and processed 42,864 hits. That means 178,080 potential overpayments linger at the end of December 31, 2018. Assuming that LADPSS continues to receive 38,022 hits a quarter and processes 42,864. At this rate it would take Los Angeles County 16 months to catch up.

San Bernardino County would need 71 months or more than 6 years to be processing IEVS hits within the number of days required by law. Alameda would need 64 months or more than five years.

Statewide it would take 13 months for California to be able to process IEVS reports in accordance with state and federal law. See TABLE # 1 on page 3.

(Cont'd on page 3)

TABLE # 1 – Number of Months Needed for the County to Process IEVS Hits Within the Time Limits of the Law

County	County Size	Hits on Hand at the end of the month	Hits received during the quarter	Hits Processed	Months it would take to be LEGAL
Statewide	State	796553	260835	248957	13
San Bernardino	Large	241377	23944	14140	71
Trinity	Small	533	50	34	65
Alameda	Large	176782	13209	11167	64
Alpine	Very Small	39	3	3	52
Placer	Medium	14767	1194	1190	50
Imperial	Medium	34958	2451	2895	48
Siskiyou	Small	3800	422	365	42
Napa	Medium	3619	434	370	40
Butte	Medium	5604	2038	938	29
Humboldt	Medium	6974	1092	1126	25
Lassen	Small	939	192	194	19
Los Angeles	Very Large	178080	38022	42864	16
San Francisco	Large	7665	1768	1898	16
Calaveras	Small	592	317	191	15
Nevada	Small	357	373	163	14
Santa Clara	Large	18728	6772	5802	14
Monterey	Medium	12123	3456	3770	13
Yuba	Small	2119	728	693	12
Orange	Large	40453	16023	13808	12

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program - County Block Granted Housing Support Program

Funding for the Housing Support Program is proposed to increase to \$95 million in FY 2019-20. There is a proposal to reappropriate unexpended balances from funds appropriated in the 2018 Budget Act.

The Legislature approved \$14.6 million from the General Fund for 2019-20 and placeholder Trailer Bill Language (SB 80) to remove the 16-day consecutive requirement in the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program (HAP), allowing for use of the 16 days in a year-long period, to begin in 2019-20. This was the only improvement of the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program.

The Homeless Assistance Program serves about 60,000 families a year at the cost of an estimated \$75 million, while the Housing Support Program (HSP) serves about 5,100 families a year, which is less than 10% of what the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program does.

TABLE #2 below shows how many families each county will assist with the HSP allocation during 2018-2019.

Counties	Allocation FY 18-19	Target number of families to newly house per county certification	Number of families to continue housing per county certification	Costs Per Homeless Family
ALAMEDA	\$1,877,071	79	27	\$17,708.22
AMADOR	\$170,000	18	4	\$ 7,727.27
BUTTE	\$2,000,000	220	50	\$ 7,407.41
CALAVERAS	\$143,642	5	5	\$ 14,364.20
COLUSA	\$75,000	10	8	\$ 4,166.67
CONTRA COSTA	\$2,415,719	100	33	\$ 18,163.30
DEL NORTE	\$197,131	40	6	\$ 4,285.46
EL DORADO	\$889,891	47	16	\$ 14,125.25
FRESNO	\$957,615	70	40	\$ 8,705.59
GLENN & TRINITY	\$645,596	50	30	\$ 8,069.95
HUMBOLDT	\$744,107	60	21	\$ 9,186.51
IMPERIAL	\$850,000	80	60	\$ 6,071.43
KERN	\$930,828	209	6	\$ 4,329.43
KINGS	\$633,973	85	42	\$ 4,991.91
LAKE	\$290,000	25	0	\$ 11,600.00
LASSEN	\$188,425	8	0	\$ 23,553.13

LOS ANGELES	\$6,990,594	490	280	\$ 9,078.69
MADERA	\$413,019	60	30	\$ 4,589.10
MARIN	\$882,824	25	18	\$ 20,530.79
MARIPOSA	\$118,657	10	3	\$ 9,127.46
MENDOCINO	\$343,000	38	5	\$ 7,976.74
MERCED	\$2,170,427	220	72	\$ 7,432.97
MONTEREY	\$1,000,000	80	20	\$ 10,000.00
NAPA	\$243,860	24	2	\$ 9,379.23
NEVADA	\$414,768	20	10	\$ 13,825.60
ORANGE	\$1,000,000	86	38	\$ 8,064.52
PLACER	\$578,759	36	12	\$ 12,057.48
PLUMAS	\$100,000	10	10	\$ 5,000.00
RIVERSIDE	\$2,547,000	275	42	\$ 8,034.70
SACRAMENTO	\$2,843,416	225	59	\$ 10,012.03
SAN BENITO	\$159,065	11	5	\$ 9,941.56
SAN BERNARDINO	\$4,140,000	220	102	\$ 12,857.14
SAN DIEGO	\$3,817,500	376	101	\$ 8,003.14
SAN FRANCISCO	\$4,879,304	110	115	\$ 21,685.80
SAN LUIS OBISPO	\$2,618,079	70	120	\$ 13,779.36
SAN MATEO	\$2,117,338	50	38	\$ 24,060.66
SANTA BARBARA	\$738,281	69	10	\$ 9,345.33
SANTA CLARA	\$4,129,125	128	40	\$ 24,578.13
SANTA CRUZ	\$1,958,500	67	41	\$ 18,134.26
SHASTA	\$929,840	65	40	\$ 8,855.62
SISKIYOU	\$332,523	16	9	\$ 13,300.92
SOLANO	\$2,456,802	68	78	\$ 16,827.41
SONOMA	\$1,219,825	52	15	\$ 18,206.34
STANISLAUS	\$1,338,675	80	60	\$ 9,561.96
SUTTER	\$788,500	60	61	\$ 6,516.53
TEHAMA	\$143,738	10	6	\$ 8,983.63
TULARE	\$382,088	75	29	\$ 3,673.92
TUOLUMNE	\$230,000	25	15	\$ 5,750.00
VENTURA	\$1,080,000	75	45	\$ 9,000.00
YOLO	\$1,800,000	100	30	\$ 13,846.15
YUBA	\$1,131,802	95	7	\$ 11,096.10
TOTAL	\$66,202,891	4,302	1,857	\$ 10,748.97