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In Brief

California Welfare-to-Work UPDATE

- Counties have requested \$99 per hour to process SSI CalFresh cases. In an internal memo, CDSS noted that “CWDA recently surveyed the counties on their actual CalFresh worker’s hourly rate. They are asking for about \$99 an hour compared to the current \$58.27 per hour.”

The \$99 hourly rate per case worker is approximately \$204,336 annually. Currently, Los Angeles pays case workers approximately \$42,262 per year. How are the counties spending the remaining \$158,604 per worker per year?

- Santa Barbara County asked CDSS for a policy interpretation regarding whether the county could establish a CalWORKs overpayment against a convicted embezzler when the funds were taken over a period of months. CDSS responded in Policy Interpretation PI#18-22 that “recurring stolen funds do not meet the definition of income under the CalWORKs program. The embezzled funds were not a result of labor, services and it cannot be characterized as earned or unearned income.”
- Ms. L00D8B3 moved from Pomona to Pasadena within Los Angeles County. She called the Pomona office numerous times to provide her new address. Ms. L00D8B3 received no benefits in September 2019. The County mailed her SAR 7 to the old address which she never got. Thus, the County did not get the SAR7. On 8-24-19, the Pomona office issued an NOA terminating all cash and food assistance effective September 1st for not submitting a SAR 7. The law - Supreme County case Goldberg v. Kelly requires at least a 10-day notice.

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The 2019-2020 State Budget appropriates \$1.7 billion for the CalWORKs WtW program. The estimated monthly number of unduplicated participants will be less than 67,000 each month. Each month, counties will receive \$2,081 for each WtW participant.

In contrast, the average family will receive \$682 a month in CalWORKs. Additionally, 50% of the Welfare to Work participants do not receive transportation because county officials argue that CalWORKs recipients living in deep poverty simply do not want to get that transportation. When the WtW participant does receive transportation reimbursement, the average is \$100 per month.

From July 2018 through April of 2019, counties sanctioned an average of **11,748** families each month while 71,670 families participated in a WtW activity. During this same time period, only 5,812 families found jobs resulting in the termination of their CalWORKs benefits. Moreover, on the average a total of **54,400** families were being sanctioned each month. That is why many call the California WtW program the “Welfare-to-Sanction” program.

In Brief (cont'd from page 1)

- CDSS will conduct CalFresh geocoding analyses of four new counties in 2019 and present results through interactive web-maps and dashboards focusing on neighborhoods where increased outreach might be beneficial.
- After years of **not** having lawful CalFresh expedited service questions, C4Yourself will be updated to include questions including: (1) “Is your household’s (HH) gross income less than \$150 and cash on hand, checking and savings account less than \$100?” (2) “Is your HH’s combined gross income and liquid resources less than the combined rent/mortgage and utilities?” and (3) “Are you a Migrant/Seasonal Farmworker?”
- Effective October 1, 2019, SB 80 increases access to Stage One Child Care for CalWORKs participants continuously for 12 months or until the participants are transferred to Stage Two. The participant will receive a Stage One Child Care authorization the day the participant is deemed eligible for CalWORKs. Beginning no later than January 1, 2021, CWDs shall provide limited, read-only, online access through SAWS database to local contractors providing CalWORKs childcare services. Access shall include a single summary page that contains current individual family data needed to enroll a family in CalWORKs childcare services or transfer a family between stages.
- CalWIN update: Nine of the eighteen CalWIN counties will administer Stage 1 Child Care using CalWIN. CalWIN does not limit the number of Stage 1 months that can be administered to a post-aid case. This should ensure that there will be no break in childcare when transitioning to Stage 2.

FACT: 13.1% CalWORKs Grant Increase - And Most CalWORKs Children Continue to Endure Deep Poverty

Since the implementation of the TANF program, California has diverted CalWORKs funds to the State’s General Fund. This yearly fleecing of the CalWORKs program by California’s lawmakers and administration officials fluctuates between 1 billion to 2 billion a year, even during the recession, when benefits were slashed to the bone.

While Governor Newsom increased CalWORKs benefits by 13.1% this year, for which we are grateful, the increase means that many CalWORKs families remain below the poverty level. The October 1, 2019 CalWORKs Grant Increase brings 37% of the CalWORKs families of 1 above the 50% of the federal poverty level which is a very small portion of the CalWORKs caseload.

In the real world, only 37% of families in CalWORKs actually receive aid for all members of the family. 63% of CalWORKs families receive aid for one or more less persons each month either because of being timed out or for being sanctioned for such actions as not having childcare, transportation, immunization sanctions, child support sanctions, or school attendance sanctions.

Table #1 below reveals the grant increases effective October 1, 2019 for the 37% and the 63% of the CalWORKs cases.

After issuing a 13.1% increase in CalWORKs grant, what happened to the rest of the CalWORKs/TANF money? \$2.6 billion was transferred from TANF to the General Fund. The TANF rainy day reserve is a meager \$70 million.

Table #2, based on information from CDSS, reveals that 40% of the available TANF funds will be used for CalWORKs grants, 31% are used for the county welfare departments, 4% is used for state administration, and a whopping 25% is being used for non-CalWORKs programs.

Table #1

All Family Members

At least one Family Member Not Being Aided Due To Being Timed Out or Being an Ineligible Parent for Various reasons etc.

37% of the Caseload		
Family Size	Maximum Aid	Percentage of the federal poverty level
Region 1 - Effective October 1, 2019		
1	\$550	53%
2	\$696	49%
3	\$878	49%
4	\$1,060	49%
5	\$1,242	49%
6	\$1,424	49%
7	\$1,606	49%
8	\$1,788	49%
Region 2-Effective October 1, 2019		
1	\$520	50%
2	\$661	47%
3	\$834	47%
4	\$1,007	47%
5	\$1,180	47%
6	\$1,353	47%
7	\$1,526	47%
8	\$1,699	47%

63 % of the Caseload		
Family Size	Maximum Aid	Percentage of the federal poverty level
Region 1-Effective October 1, 2019		
2	\$550	39%
3	\$696	39%
4	\$878	41%
5	\$1,060	42%
6	\$1,242	43%
7	\$1,424	44%
8	\$1,606	44%
9	\$1,788	49%
Region 2-Effective October 1, 2019		
2	\$520	37%
3	\$661	37%
4	\$834	39%
5	\$1,007	40%
6	\$1,180	41%
7	\$1,353	42%
8	\$1,526	42%
9	\$1,699	47%

Table #2

California Department of Social Services Local Assistance 2019-20 Appropriation Historical CalWORKs and TANF Funding Chart		
FY 2019-20 Appropriation		
Total TANF Grant/Required MOE	\$6,572,555,000	Percentage of the Total Available TANF Money
Total Available Funding	\$7,488,586,000	
Total Funding Needed	\$7,417,718,000	
Total TANF Reserve	\$70,868,000	
CalWORKs Grants	3,030,848,000	40%
Administration	645,736,000	
Services	1,216,172,000	
Child Care	330,658,000	
Mental Health/Sub. Abuse Services	126,606,000	
County Single Allocation (CSA)- County TANF Block Grant Allocation	2,319,172,000	31%
TANF Transfer to Student Aid Commission	1,060,090,000	
Kin-GAP Program	95,310,000	
Additional TANF/MOE Expenditures in CDSS	464,938,000	
Other MOE Eligible Expenditures	776,985,000	
State Support Costs	27,588,000	0.4%
Non-CalWORKs Transfers	192,119,000	
CalWORKs “Involuntary” Contribution to the General Fund	\$2,670,078,000	29%

EDITOR'S NOTE: The word "involuntary" was added by CCWRO

CDSS CalFresh Division Practices Segregation

CDSS CalFresh Division Practices “Segregation” in lieu of “Integration” - Although Secretary Ghally of the California Health and Human Services Agency has posted the Newsum Administrations new principles of collaboration, stating that programs shall *“implemented in a collaborative manner”*, which in “integration”, the CDSS CalFresh Branch holds ABAWD Technical Assistance calls with counties and intentionally exclude stakeholders who are not with the county welfare department, which is segregation.

Here is the agenda for the 5-1-19 meeting from 10:30 – 11:30 that advocates representing Cal-Fresh beneficiaries are intentionally excluded.

- 10:30 to 10:35 - Welcome and Introductions
- 10:35 to 11:00 - CDSS Update • Waiver Update
- 11:00 to 11:20 - County Updates/Questions/Concerns
- 11:20 to 11:30 - Wrap-Up and Next Steps

- Next Technical Assistance Meeting: Thursday, May 30, 10:30 – 11:30- AM