



# CCWRO Welfare News-2020-09

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.  
1111 Howe Ave • Suite 635 • Sacramento • CA 95825-8551  
Telephone (916) 736-0616 Fax (916) 736-2645

## In Brief

- Online CalWORKs Appraisal Tool (OCAT) went live November 2, 2020. CDSS scheduled a call on November 2 for county staff as well as “county production support” calls November 2 through November 13 from 4:30 pm to 5 pm. Representatives of the beneficiaries are expressly excluded from participating in the calls.
- Deloitte and Associates is building the new CalSAWS beneficiary portal. CCWRO recommends that Deloitte & Associates incorporate the verification HUB into the application portal. Incorporating the verification HUB would streamline the process for persons seeking benefits from California’s safety net programs
- According to DHCS, MAGI Medi-Cal uses modified adjusted gross income for eligibility determinations. This calculation does not include pre-tax deductions such as health care premiums. See IRC§36B(2)(B) and 42 CFR §435.603(e).

## CalWORKs WtW Sanctions Counties Commit Child Abuse

The June 2020, WtW 25 and 25A reports identify the counties that have a significant higher number of sanctioned CalWORKs families compared to those participating in a WtW activity while 95% of the caseload are in counties that are not fully open for the WtW program. **See Table #1.** Sanctions means that CalWORKs families with children living in deep poverty have their meager benefits reduced by \$125 a month. This is devastating to families and it is comparable to county child abuse. According to California Welfare Directors Association:

*“[f]or children, deep poverty can cause toxic stress that harms brain development and early functioning, disrupting their ability to succeed in school and in life. Imagine as a child not knowing when you will be able to eat next, if you’ll be forced to sleep in a shelter tomorrow or if you can make it to school the next day; those real anxieties are oftentimes coupled with other traumatic events. **Even a short amount of time in deep poverty can derail a child emotionally, psychologically, physically and educationally.** These negative effects last through adulthood. Children who live in deep poverty are less likely to graduate high school, more likely to have poor health, and more likely to become involved in the criminal justice system. They are also three times as likely to be deeply poor as adults compared to children that do not grow up in deep poverty.”*

Yes. A County WtW sanction is child abuse as confirmed by the counties. **California counties, please stop county child abuse!**

CCWRO is an IOLTA funded support center serving IOLTA legal services programs in California. Types of Services Offered: Litigation, Co-Counseling, Fair Hearing, Representation, Consultation, Informational Services, Research Services, In-Depth Consultation and Welfare Training. Programs Covered: CalWORKs, Welfare to Work (WtW), Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, IHSS, CAPI, Child Care, General Assistance & Refugee/Immigrant Eligibility. All Rights Reserved.

**Table #1 Counties With High Sanction Rates**

County	June 2020 Sanctions	June 2020 Participants
Butte	356	209
Imperial	806	606
Kern	5,000	918
Lake	132	49
Madera	338	41*
Mendocino	149	112
San Bernardino	8,301	2,957
San Joaquin	2,610	753
Stanislaus	1,218	691
Sutter	181	123
Statewide	42,328	54,774

*Estimated. The WtW reports do not report sanctions and participants under 11 years old..*

**Alameda County CPS Takes Children From Essential Worker Who Requested Homeless Assistance – Due to Domestic Violence**

An employed CalWORKs mother in Alameda County with two (2) children who is an essential worker, requested CalWORKs Homeless Assistance. Her family was sleeping in their car in order to escape domestic abuse. Alameda County gave her 16 days of homeless assistance. After 16 days, her family was sleeping in the car again due to lack of additional CalWORKs Homeless Assistance benefits. Current law states that a family can only receive 16 days of CalWORKs Homeless Assistance once a year.

Alameda County welfare employees notified CPS who took the children from their mother for neglect because they were homeless.

Domestic abuse has intensified during the Covid-19 pandemic. The victim and children have the Hobson’s choice of staying with the abuser or fleeing. This Alameda mother fled and lost her children to CPS. This situation could have been avoided.

**July 2020 WtW Activity Reports Reveal Thousands of Working CalWORKs - often “Essential Workers” not Getting WtW Transportation Benefits from California Counties**

The July 2020 WtW Activity Report reveals that counties reported 52,216 persons participating in the WtW program. What these reports do not show is the number of people who were actually participating given the fact that most of the counties shut down their WtW programs in March 2020.

The counties reported 29,674 participants as working. Many participants were “essential workers”. Only 16,856 of them received transportation. This means that a statistically significant **47% of the working participants were cheated out of the transportation CalWORKs WtW benefits for which they were entitled.**

Los Angeles County reported 13,909 unduplicated participant and reported that 5,000 were working. Only 2,853 of the 5,000 received transportation. Los Angeles County failed to provide transportation to 47% WtW participants actually working. However, LA County is not the worse county for not providing transportation reimbursement.

- Fresno County: 83% of the working participants did not receive transportation;
- Kern County: 78% of the working participants did not receive transportation;
- San Francisco County: 99% of the working Participants did not receive transportation;
- Santa Barbara County: 95% of the working participants did not receive transportation;
- Tulare County: 93% of the working participants did not receive transportation; and

**TABLE # 2 - WtW Participants, many of whom are “essential workers” are not getting WtW Transportation Benefits**

Counties	Unduplicated Participants	Working Participants	Estimated Transportation Issued to Working WtW Participants *	Percentage of Actual Working WtW Parents Getting Transportation
Statewide	52216	29674	7,248	24%
Alameda	1826	1654	0	0%
Butte	207	68	9	13%
Contra Costa	1259	1098	73	7%
Fresno	4723	2373	403	17%
Imperial	463	235	12	5%
Kern	909	490	109	22%
Kings	412	196	61	31%
Los Angeles	13909	5000	2,853	57%
Madera	37	8	6	70%
Monterey	266	84	50	60%
Orange	3391	2699	103	4%
Placer	276	206	14	7%
Riverside	2108	1028	648	63%
Sacramento	5573	4395	246	6%
San Bernardino	2895	1572	1,127	72%
San Diego	4393	2845	551	19%
San Francisco	904	781	9	1%
San Joaquin	749	349	25	7%
San Mateo	163	145	7	5%
Santa Barbara	344	249	13	5%
Santa Clara	1041	711	438	62%
Solano	219	84	23	28%
Sonoma	423	323	24	7%
Stanislaus	633	266	21	8%
Sutter	105	28	8	29%
Tulare	1551	1277	87	7%
Tuolumne	42	24	7	29%
Ventura	629	250	25	10%
Yolo	343	232	15	6%
Yuba	199	83	15	19%

\* The estimated transportation issued is based on the percentage of the total ‘unduplicated participants’ who are working. We then use that percentage of the transportation issued to all CalWORKs WtW beneficiaries to estimate how many working beneficiaries received transportation. Notwithstanding the billions of taxpayer dollars spent on the welfare computer, there are no reports that show exactly how many of the working WtW CalWORKs beneficiaries are getting transportation.