



# CCWRO Welfare News-2021-03

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## Sanctions Flourish During the Pandemic

During the December 2020 holidays, 41,108 CalWORKs families were sanctioned. During that same period 44,148 families were reported to be participating in the program. This means that a mere 40 additional families were participating v. those being sanctioned in the Welfare-to-Work program.

The 2020-2021 California-enacted state budget reveals that the WtW funding is \$1,547,841,000. Of this amount, \$1,124,101,000 is the federal share and the State of California puts up \$33,740,000. It should also be noted that while the average county funding for each WtW participant is \$35,060 a year, the average CalWORKs grant for a WtW family of three is \$8,808 a year. **Table #1** provides a snapshot of the 11 most egregious sanction counties. The source of this information is the CDSS report WtW 25 and 25A based on county reports to the State Department of Social Services

It is notable to mention that Madera County is sanctioning 87% of their WtW case load. While 389 families are being sanctioned, only 58 are participating in the WtW program. San Joaquin County is sanctioning 2,998 families while only 708 families are participating. In the simplest of terms, 80% of San Joaquin County's caseload are sanctioned. Similarly, San Bernardino County has 2,611 participants and 8,561 sanctions. It seems these counties did not listen to CDSS suggestions

that the counties use the COVID-19 shutdowns to to cure sanctions in numerous CDSS policy issuances in the form ACL and ACWDLs.

**Table #1**

December 2020	Long Term Sanctions	Short term Sanctions	Total Sanctions	Participants
Statewide	19983	21125	41108	44148
Madera	168	221	389	58
San Joaquin	1323	1675	2998	708
Merced	590	725	1315	363
Siskiyou	8	31	39	11
Kern	2009	2629	4638	1410
San Bernardino	3655	4906	8561	2611
Stanislaus	466	652	1118	553
Imperial	466	523	989	559
Butte	151	213	364	223
Shasta	118	145	263	172
Mendocino	65	103	168	140

## Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) Corrupt County Administration Costs

The 2021-2022 Governor's proposed budget assumes that the administrative cost per Refugee Cash Assistance eligibility case is \$259.65 an hour. All costs for Refugee Cash Assistance are covered with federal funds. The CalWORKs administrative costs per eligibility worker is \$80 per hour since these costs are not covered with 100% federal funds. The estimated eligibility worker time for the intake process is 53 minutes and the case management time is 5 minutes.

(cont'd from page 1, RCA)

The RCA case is limited to 8 months. The RCA administrative costs in 2012-2013 were \$99.13. In 2018-2019 it leaped from \$131.07 per case to \$234.66 per case, a 45% increase. For 2019-2020, it took another leap from \$234.66 up to \$359.65 per case – another 35% jump. **See Table #2.**

What is the rationale for paying county Refugee Cash Assistance workers 350% more in 2018-2019 compared to 2012-2013? Did inflation shoot up by 350% after 7-8 years? Did the cost of living go up by 350% during those 7-8 years? No. The counties and the State Department of Social Services saw free money coming from the federal government and decided no one's watching anyhow. And then, counties and state officials talk about "program integrity" as a rationale for imposing a host of sanctions and penalties on poor families with children and babies who live in deep poverty.

**Table #2**

FY – May Revise	Average monthly administrative cost per RCA Case
2012-2013	\$99.13
2013-2014	\$103.08
2014-2015	\$88.55
2015-2016	\$127.54
2016-2017	\$114.90
2017-2018	\$131.07
2018-2019	\$234.66
2019-2020	\$359.65
2020-2021	\$359.65
2021-2022	\$259.65

**CalSAWS Denies Pro-Beneficiary Input Into CalSAWS Policy & Systems Changes**

CDSS claims that they want to achieve equity by supporting on-going partnerships with those communities most affected by the inequities to advance equitable policy and system changes. The reality demonstrates the opposite. The CalSAWS system will be a major vehicle to deliver benefits to beneficiaries of California's means tested safety net programs. CalSAWS was introduced as a system being "built by the counties for the counties."

Advocates soon realized that CalSAWS and the counties held meetings about "policy and system changes" without the valuable input that advocates and beneficiaries could provide. In 2019 the Legislature enacted a new law that provided "The State Department of Social Services, the State Department of Health Care Services, the Office of Systems Integration, and the SAWS consortia shall engage with stakeholders to discuss current and planned functionality changes, system demonstrations of public portals and mobile applications, and advocates' identification of areas of concern, especially with the design of public-facing elements and other areas that directly impact clients."

After that, CalSAWS started meeting with advocates and beneficiaries on a once a month basis while expressly excluding advocates and beneficiaries from the 17 CalSAWS committee meetings that dealt with "policy and system changes." CalSAWS administrators said that rather than having advocates and beneficiaries attend the committee meetings, the decisions on policy and system changes will be announced during the monthly meetings.

In April 2021, CDSS and CalSAWS informed the advocates that CDSS and CalSAWS cannot do monthly meetings because of a lack of time and resources to "achieve equity by supporting on-going partnerships with those communities most affected by the inequities to advance equitable policy and system changes" which is a stated goal of CDSS. Rather, we were told that once every three months should suffice.

In 2020, CalSAWS, CDSS, and the counties have held 74 meetings billed at 185.4 hours while the advocates had 9 meetings billed at 20 hours, indicating that far from a lack of time and resources, CalSAWS and CDSS have simply prioritized meetings with the counties in vast disproportion to its commitment to meeting with advocates.

**TABLE #3** below is a list of CalSAWS county meetings v. advo-

**CalSAWS County/CDSS/DHCS Meetings -  
Advocates Participation Disallowed**

**CalSAWS Meetings with Advocates -  
County Participation Allowed**

**Table #3**

Committee Meetings - 74 meetings	County/CDSS/ DHCS Meeting Dates	Meeting Hours- <b>185.5</b>
CalWORKS/CalFresh Committee	8-Apr-20	3.5
CalWORKS/CalFresh Committee	12-Aug-20	3.5
CalWORKS/CalFresh Committee	9-Dec-20	3.5
CalWORKS/CalFresh Committee	15-Jan-20	6
CalWORKS/CalFresh Committee	10-Jun-20	3.5
CalWORKS/CalFresh Committee	17-Mar-20	3.5
CalWORKS/CalFresh Committee	13-May-20	3.5
CalWORKS/CalFresh Committee	9-Sep-20	3.5
CalWORKS/CalFresh Committee	14-Oct-20	3.5
Collections Committee	19-Aug-20	1
Collections Committee	19-Feb-20	1
Collections Committee	20-May-20	1
Collections Committee	18-Nov-20	1
Fiscal Committee	22-Apr-20	1.5
Fiscal Committee	22-Jan-20	1.5
Fiscal Committee	22-Jul-20	1.5
Fiscal Committee	21-Oct-20	1.5
Foster Care Committee	6-Feb-20	1
Foster Care Committee	28-Jul-20	2
Foster Care Committee	24-Mar-20	2
Foster Care Committee	26-May-20	2
Foster Care Committee	17-Nov-20	2
Foster Care Committee	22-Sep-20	2
General Assistance/General Relief	23-Jul-20	1.5
IEVS Committee	13-Feb-20	1
IEVS Committee	23-Apr-20	2
Imaging Committee	27-Aug-20	3
Imaging Committee	27-Feb-20	4
Imaging Committee	23-Jan-20	5
Imaging Committee	23-Jul-20	3
Imaging Committee	18-Jun-20	3
Imaging Committee	30-Jun-20	2
Imaging Committee	25-Mar-20	4
Imaging Committee	May 20 & 21, 2020	6
Imaging Committee	May 27 & 28, 2020	6
Imaging Committee	6-May-20	3

Date of meeting	CalSAWS, CDSS & DHCS meetings with advocates - 9 meetings	Meeting Hours- <b>20</b>
Jan-20	CalSAWS Stakeholders Meeting	2
Feb-20	CalSAWS Stakeholders Meeting	2
Mar-20	cancelled	0
Apr-20	CalSAWS Stakeholders Meeting	3
May-20	CalSAWS Stakeholders Meeting	2
Jun-20	CalSAWS Stakeholders Meeting	2
Jul-20	cancelled	0
Aug-20	CalSAWS Stakeholders Meeting	2
Sep-20	CalSAWS Stakeholders Meeting	2
Oct-20	CalSAWS Stakeholders Meeting	2
Nov-20	CalSAWS Stakeholders Meeting	3
Dec-20	cancelled	0

Table #3 continued on page 4

(Cont'd from page 3-CalSAWS)

Imaging Committee	19-Nov-20	1
Imaging Committee	22-Oct-20	3
IVR/Contact Center Committee	22-Jan-20	5
IVR/Contact Center Meeting	22-Apr-20	2
Lobby Management Committee	26-Mar-20	2
Lobby Management Committee	24-Sep-20	2
Medi-Cal/CMSP Committee	8-Aug-20	2
Medi-Cal/CMSP Committee	8-Dec-20	3
Medi-Cal/CMSP Committee	5-Feb-20	5
Medi-Cal/CMSP Committee	7-Jul-20	3
Medi-Cal/CMSP Committee	3-Jun-20	5
Medi-Cal/CMSP Committee	6-Oct-20	3
Medi-Cal/CMSP Committee	2-Sep-20	3
Medi-Cal/CMSP Meeting	1-Apr-20	5
Resource Data Bank Committee	30-Sep-20	2
Self Service Portal Committee	7-Jan-20	2
Self Service Portal Committee	7-Jul-20	2.5
Self Service Portal Meeting	5-Mar-20	2
Self-Service Portal Committee	5-May-20	2
Task Management Committee	10-Dec-20	2
Task Management Committee	25-Jun-20	2
Task Management Committee	5-Nov-20	2
Task Management Committee	3-Sep-20	4
Tax Intercept Committee	19-Aug-20	0.5
Tax Intercept Committee	19-Feb-20	1
Tax Intercept Committee	20-May-20	1
Tax Intercept Committee	18-Nov-20	1
Training Committee	8-Jan-20	1
Training Committee	1-Jul-20	1.5
Training Committee	11-Jun-20	1.5
Training Committee	4-Mar-20	1
Training Committee	6-May-20	1
Training Committee	4-Nov-20	1.5
Usability Committee	9-Jan-20	2
Welfare To Work Committee	16-Jan-20	2.5
Welfare To Work Committee	19-Mar-20	2
Welfare To Work Committee	21-May-20	2
Welfare To Work Committee	19-Nov-20	2
Welfare to Work Committee	17-Sep-20	2