



CCWRO Welfare News-2022-01

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CalSAWS Updates

CalSAWS neglects GA/GR

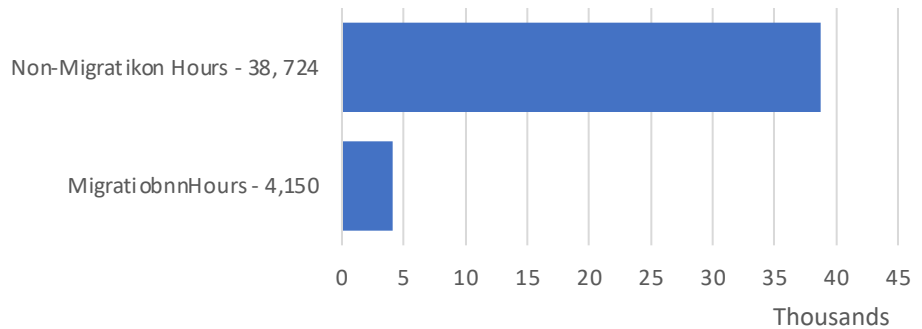
data: At a February 2022 CalSAWS board meeting, the CalSAS JP Meeting Slide Deck 2/18/22 Final-updated slide #13 showed the number of active Medi-Cal, CalFresh and CalWORKS cases in CalSAWS as of 2/6/22. However, the slide did not provide any data regarding over 100,000 General Assistance/General relief cases that are also in CalSAWS. Why?

CalSAWS has capacity to make changes requested by the counties - but lacks capacity for new changes implemented by the Legislature.

At the February 18, 2022 JPA CalSAWS board meeting presentation of CalSAWS JPA Meeting Slide Deck Final-updated # 30 states that future legislation intended to immediately improve public social services for beneficiaries won't be implemented until 2024. Social services beneficiaries could see severe impacts from this failure to prioritize future policy and enact the the legislative changes to improve the lives of California's needy.

Contemporaneous to this statement of priorities of migration and "existing policy commitment" from CalSAWS, the following hours were reported as allocated. According to CalSAWS the work represented by these hours does not appear related to CalSAWS migration but implements requests by counties that are not "migration" related:

CalSAWS publicly claims that "Our top priorities are migration and existing policy commitments. We anticipate having space for new policy changes beginning in mid-2024." Really? 11% migration and 89% not migration.



400 hours – No Migration according the CalSAWS document CA-214754. Create a new endpoint to retrieve the reception logs for a specified case or office, date, and status.

365 hours - No Migration according the CalSAWS document CA 232018. CalSAWS change control board documents admit.

1001 hours - No Migration according the CalSAWS document CA224771. GA/GR fiscal changes for Los Angeles County.

2,573 hours - No Migration according the CalSAWS document CA 233488. The GA/GR solution in the CalSAWS system is designed to automate the rules for the Los Angeles county's implementation as well as the automation and monitoring of their GROW program. Currently, CalWIN manages their General

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Assistance GR program logic by using a Rule Matrix which can be accessed by the county to allow each county administrator to customize the behavior to their specific county.

1,135 hours - No Migration according the CalSAWS document CA 214916 . Update the CalSAWS System Task Management functionality to allow authorized users to define and schedule a periodic sampling of Tasks. The periodic Task sample results will be accessible for review.

5,066 hours - No Migration according the CalSAWS document CA 234211. Update the CalSAWS System Task Management functionality to allow authorized users to define and schedule a periodic sampling of Tasks. The periodic Task sample results will be accessible for review.

5,146 hours – No Migration according the CalSAWS document CA 233488 & CA 233489. The GA/GR solution in the CalSAWS system is designed to automate the rules for the Los Angeles county’s implementation as well as the automation and monitoring of their GROW program. Currently, CalWIN manages their General Assistance GR program logic by using a Rule Matrix which can be accessed by the county to allow each county administrator to customize the behavior to their specific county.

786 hours – In a closed CalSAWS CalWORKs/CalFresh committee meeting with county leadership, the committee approved work that would automatically impose CalFresh sanctions on currently sanctioned CalWORKs beneficiaries.

This is a total of 16,472 hours just from January 20, 2022 CalSAWS Change Control Board Approvals. They do not represent the total number of hours approved that are not migration related. These numbers caught our attention, but, there are more.

During this meeting, the Change Control Board acted on 84 change requests, only 11 were related to migration. The Control Board approved 38,724 hours and only 4,150 were for migration. This represents 11% for migration. See table below:

System Change Request	Hours	Migration?
CA-214754	400	No
CA-214756	292	No
CA-228869	12	No
CA-233089	22	No
CA-236661	9	No
CA-236662	15	No
CA-229301	240	Yes
CA-229302	240	Yes
CA-232018	365	No
CA-235360	133	No
CA-235989	20	No
CA-236077	134	No
CA-236079	190	No
CA-236357	22	No
CA-236793	124	No
CA-236882	80	No
CA-236926	40	No
CA-237721	61	No
CA-237821	86	No
CA-237845	24	No
CA-237997	22	No
CA-238141	25	No
CA-238169	61	No
CA-238187	20	Yes
CA-238312	10	No
CA-238387	5	No
CA-238523	2	Yes
CA-224771	1001	No
CA-225255	355	No
CA-230192	201	No
CA-233487	702	No
CA-233488	2573	No
CA-233489	2573	No
CA-235297	220	No
CA-236010	169	No
CA-236997	274	No
CA-237932	67	No
CA-237357	0	
CA-47290	429	No
CA-214918	426	No

CalWORKs Earned Income Disregards Punish Low Wage Working Families

CA-214919	335	No
CA-224269	1126	Yes
CA-231970	684	No
CA-232069	133	No
CA-233027	229	No
CA-235060	20	No
CA-235353	10	No
CA-235422	205	No
CA-236300	10	No
CA-236371	63	No
CA-236451	370	Yes
CA-236766	123	No
CA-237360	0	No
CA-237606	7	Yes
CA-238011	10	Yes
CA-238325	280	No
CA-210330	158	No
CA-211362	204	No
CA-234997	169	No
CA-235292	52	No
CA-214269	104	No
CA-221703	115	No
CA-233919	23	No
CA-229461	1131	Yes
CA-232562	110	No
CA-236204	274	No
CA-236577	324	No
CA-237144	376	No
CA-49395	154	No
CA-203793	590	No
CA-214912	256	Yes
CA-214916	1135	No
CA-225639	1045	No
CA-229096	1066	No
CA-235285	348	No
CA-217717	74	No
CA-232065	719	No
CA-202818	114	No
CA-216757	748	Yes
CA-221357	257	No
CA-226844	7700	No
CA-231511	273	No
CA-234211	5066	No
CA-207127	890	No

The 2022 CalWORKs earned income disregards are set too low. Most families working full-time and earning minimum wage who apply for CalWORKs have their applications denied for earning too much. CalWORKs recipients who start working full-time earning minimum wage are generally terminated from CalWORKs for excess income. The majority of CalWORKs families are families of 2 and 3 persons. Today, if a mom with 2 or 3 kids works full-time and gets minimum wage, they are ineligible for CalWORKs.

History of Earned Income Disregards in California - In 1970s, when CalWORKs (then AFDC) single beneficiaries worked, they were entitled to an earned income disregard of \$30, then another third of the remainder. The actual costs of childcare and transportation were deducted from the net income. The remainder was known as countable income. The countable income was deducted from the Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC) to calculate the payment amount. For two-parent families, working over 100 hours a month made the family ineligible for AFDC.

In the 1972 case, *Jefferson v. Hackney*, 406 U.S. 535 (1972), the Supreme Court allowed states to deduct the countable income from the maximum aid payment rather than the MBSAC, upholding the only part of the Reagan 1971 Welfare Reform Act.

President Reagan proposed limiting earned income disregard 1/3 deduction from the gross income to 4 months and the \$30 deduction to 12 months. Within a year, however, California's Governor Deukmejian received a federal waiver to remove the 4 month and 12-month limitations on AFDC earned income disregards.

In 1998, the CalWORKs program was created, implementing the 1996 Clinton Welfare Reform Act, where the earned disregard formula was changed to gross earned income minus \$225 earned income disregard and 50% of the remainder deduction.

In 2020, Jessica Bartholow of Western Center on Law & Poverty secured a provision in SB 80 (Chapter 27, Statutes of 2019) that increased the earned income disregard (EID) to \$500 for 2020 and \$550 for 2021.

CCWRO RECOMMENDATIONS: a) Increase the earned income disregard from \$550 to \$1,000 a month and make sure it is adjusted for inflation either every year or every three (3) years; b) Use the recipient earned income deduction method to determine eligibility for CalWORKs applicants that would not only benefit the working poor, but it would also simplify the program for county workers.