



CCWRO Welfare News

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In Brief

✓ California Department of Education (CDE) presents a revised state child care plan every three years. On 3/11/16 CDE submitted a state plan to HHS. The plan reveals that California is out of compliance with federal law and will have to submit an amendment to the State Plan. A child care recipient who has violated the law, faces criminal prosecution; their child care payments stopped; and faces possible jail time. When the state government breaks the law, the state must file an amended state plan.

✓ The USDA Office of Inspector General is looking at the administrative cost per CalFresh case. They are visiting Los Angeles and San Francisco Counties. In California, the cost is \$26 per case, while in other states, the cost is \$10 per case. Actually, the California non-assistance SNAP/CalFresh cost is about \$79 a month. California, New York and Ohio use 1/3 of all SNAP administrative dollars nationwide. The OIG report is due September 1, 2016.

✓ CDSS is expanding its internal webpage called "extranet" to include handbooks, policy interpretations, letters and more. The extranet is a part of the DSS web page but is only accessible to certain authorized individuals, including counties.

✓ DSS CalFresh Expedited Services reports known as DFA 296X are being converted to CF 296 effective with July 1 through September 31, 2016 should be reported to DSS no later than 10-20-16 according and ACL 16-39. The ACL state that the April 1, 2016 through June 31, 2016 report is due July 20, 2016, but the last 296X report shown on the DSS webpage is for the quarter ending September 31, 2015 that was received October 20, 2015.

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Hillary Clinton On TANF? She Loves it.

If Candidate Clinton wins the election, do not look forward to making TANF better for poor families and children. Ms. Clinton's webpage proudly declares that she supports welfare reform, which was actually DEFORM.

Welfare DEFORM enacted the TANF program. Before TANF there was the AFDC program. Unlike AFDC, TANF imposed a time limit for families with children to be on aid - 5-years or less. Moreover, under AFDC, 70% of the money went to payments to families. In TANF only a meager 30% goes to payments to families and the remaining 70% goes to the welfare bureaucracy.

In her 2003 book, "Living History", she agreed that Bill Clinton should sign the TANF bill and she worked hard to round up votes for it. This is also the bill that limited food stamps to 3 months out of every 36 months for able-bodied-adults-without-dependents (ABAWDS) causing extreme hunger in America.

May 2016 SSI Food Insecurity Report

1.3 million SSI recipients endure food insecurity because they cannot get Food Stamps. Their \$ loss:

Daily -	\$ 4 million
Monthly -	\$ 122 million
Annually	\$ 1.5 billion

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What happened to the reports for October 1-December 31, 2015 received on January 20, 2016?

Or the reports for January 1 through March 31, 2016 received April 20, 2016?

The last report available to date is for the third quarter of 2015.

✓ There may be an underground policy circulating that former SSI recipients, including children, whose SSI has been terminated, are not eligible for CalWORKs. In fact, the CWDA CalWORKs Policy Committee (CAT) minutes state: "SSI recipients whose SSI has been suspended and that are not on aid do not get aid or SSI. They are not eligible for CW". This is incorrect. In CalWORKs, income has to be actually available to be considered. State regulations provide that only children and adults who are "receiving" SSI are excluded from the assistance unit. It appears we may have disabled or blind children and/or parents being denied SSI and CalWORKs at the same time.

✓ According to HHS data for 2014, California has the second highest sanction rate in the nation, following Missouri for work-related sanctions. For non-work-related sanctions, California ranks 8th in the nation.

Counties cause large overpayments then prosecute for welfare fraud.

Often, we see overpayments that have gone on for several years. Some cases involve former CalWORKs recipients who now work. The welfare department in each county receives Income and Eligibility Verification system (IEVS) reports. IEVS is a matching system comprised of various electronic cross matches that match applicant/recipient name and Social Security Number (SSN) with various databases. There are two IEVS systems: one is for applicants who are applying for aid (IEVS Applicant System) which is administered by Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and a second is for ongoing eligibility verification of current recipients (IEVS Recipient System) operated by California Department of Social Services (CDSS). An inconsistency is called a "IEVS hit".

Counties are required to reconcile the IEVS hits in the following quarter in an effort to minimize the overpayment. However, they don't. Many of the IEVS hits are not reviewed for years - which can lead to large overpayments. After the overpayment reaches a \$1,000 or more, the "fraud machine" kicks in. The fraud investigators get a warrant for the working, former CalWORKs recipient, sometimes arrest her or him at his or her place of work. Upon conviction the former recipient is ordered to make restitution of the full amount. Saddled with a felony record, it is nearly impossible for the individual to obtain employment with a large enough income to allow repayment.

Effective January 1, 2016 there were 882,031 IEVS hits from 2015 that had not been reviewed. During October 1 through December 31, 2015 counties reviewed 395,700 hits. Of those, 367,068 had no discrepancy - just a big waste of time. Only 28,632 had a discrepancy. Of the 28,632 reviewed only 5,069 resulted in the termination of aid and less than 10% or 2,332 were accepted by the welfare fraud unit and less than 10% go to prosecution.

Counties are supposed to report every quarter within 30 days of the end of the quarter. Trinity and San Benito County just did not report. Who cares that the State Agency requires a timely IEVS Hit report? Now if a CalWORKs recipient in Trinity or San Benito County failed to submit a SAR 7, boom - NOA - all benefits stop. Santa Clara County reported that they receive 0 IEVS hits from October 1 through December 31, 2015. It's amazing.

Colusa County has 501 IEVS hits and they only process 5 a month. At that rate they would catch up in 33 years. Imperial County has 28,571 IEVS hits waiting to be processed and they only process 863 a month. At that rate it would take them 11 years to catch up. Meanwhile, each quarter increases the outstanding IEVS Hits and increases both the number and amount of the overpayments.

PRACTICE POINTER: Individuals being charged with overpayments and fraud should note that any overpayment occurring after the county knew or should have known about the overpayment should be a county error.

Legal Authority - DSS Regulation MPP § 20-006.4; Federal Law 45 CFR, §§ 205.51; 264.10 and 7 CFR § 272.8

See page 3 for Table #1 - County-by-County rankings for the October 1 through December 31, 2015. Source CDSS DPA 482

TABLE # 1 - County IEVS Back Log

County	IEVS Hits Not Processed	IEVS Hits Processed During the quarter	Months Needed to Catch up
Statewide	1,164,998	395,700	12
Colusa	501	5	401
Imperial	28,571	863	132
Nevada	4,438	147	121
Placer	24,709	1,052	94
Alameda	131,560	8,326	63
Butte	15,153	1,635	37
San Joaquin	79,976	8,751	37
Lassen	964	108	36
Siskiyou	3,591	462	31
San Bernardino	90,407	11,681	31
Ventura	47,194	7,547	25
Del Norte	1,326	215	25
Kings	8,707	1,460	24
Stanislaus	19,598	3,628	22
Mariposa	356	72	20
Calaveras	555	118	19
San Francisco	10,632	2,357	18
Monterey	15,464	3,608	17
Yuba	1,880	470	16
Yolo	2,494	641	16
Modoc	97	30	13
Mendocino	1,822	601	12
Kern	17,759	5,950	12
Fresno	46,607	16,401	11
Sutter	1,462	564	10
Sonoma	7,325	2,923	10
Tuolumne	874	381	9
Madera	2,486	1,089	9
Lake	677	297	9
Los Angeles	474,857	221,647	9