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In Brief

✓ **CalSAWS Update** -The CalSAWS system, “built by the counties for the counties” according to the CalSAWS Past President, but paid with federal and state funds are migrating to an Amazon Connect platform. Here are the go-live dates for the C-IV Migration to Amazon Connect platform.

County	Go-Live Date
Marin	Monday, November 25, 2019
Kern	Friday, January 10, 2020
Sutter	Friday, January 24, 2020
Yuba	Friday, January 24, 2020
Butte	Friday, January 31, 2020
Shasta	Friday, January 31, 2020
San Bernardino	Friday, February 21, 2020
Humboldt	Friday, March 6, 2020
Stanislaus	Friday, March 6, 2020
Monterey	Friday, March 20, 2020
Kings	Friday, March 27, 2020
Riverside	Friday, April 10, 2020
Merced	Friday, April 10, 2020
San Joaquin	Friday, April 10, 2020

✓ During 2019-2020 each CalSAWS three components; LRS, C-IV and CalWIN, get 8,000 hours of “code writing” funding each month. What happens during those 8,000 hours is a mystery and we hope to get information from CalSAWS as to how they use those hours funded with welfare money. Meanwhile, changes suggested by representatives of public social services program beneficiaries are rejected alleging there are not enough resources available to make the changes.

✓ CDSS provided information on new language incorporated on all ACL’s that reads “Implementation date by XX” or “when automated in SAWS or Consortia”. When “SAWS” is referenced, it means when automation can occur in the three consortia systems (CalWIN, C4, or LRS). When CalSAWS is referenced, it means automation in the one statewide consortia system scheduled to be live in all counties by 2023. If the changes cannot be automated by the implementation date, the change will be delayed until the consortia systems can automate. Without automation, the counties will be utilizing “work-arounds” and beneficial changes to beneficiaries will have to wait for technology.

✓ **CDSS Draft ACL Letter on Earned Income Disregard (EID) and Income Reporting Threshold (IRT)** – CalWORKs cases will remain open with a \$0 grant until the family is over the 130% IRT or at the client request. This is to allow the family to continue receiving regular WTW services rather than post-aid services. The family will remain eligible for special needs, such as, homeless assistance. Additionally, the family will be required to abide by all WTW reporting and redetermination responsibilities. Counties shared concerns on how this will affect the clients’ CW, TANF, WTW timeclocks, TCF, and WTW sanctions if the client fails to participate. CDSS response to these concerns are unknown at this time.

✓ **Child Care Immediate Approval and 12-month eligibility** - CDSS confirmed that available child care slots will be open to all CW recipient’s including ARCO sanctioned cases. Child Care availability be-

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gan Oct 1, 2019. The Child Care ACL was released on September 30. The new rule applies to all CalWORKs applicants and recipients. CalWORKs beneficiaries who are "recipients" have not been told that they are eligible for childcare for 12-months. Most counties are not complying with the law. For example, Los Angeles County Call-Out 19-64 specifies that in order to activate the 12-month childcare, the beneficiary must turn in a county drafted PA 129. The PA 129 is provided to applicants at the time of application. The LADPSS policy issuance further states that recipients will be given the PA 129 at the time of their annual redetermination. DSS requires a CCP 7 form and not the county PA 129.

✓ **CDSS provided answers to the following outstanding [SB 726](#) questions** - SB 726 will set the overpayment recoupment threshold over \$250 and require a county to expunge an overpayment if the county determines that the overpayment has been caused by a major systemic error or negligence.

Q. Does the 36 consecutive months start from the date of discovery?

A. No, the 36 consecutive months timeframe should begin on the month following the CalWORKs case discontinuance, not the date of discovery.

Q. Does the discharging provision only cover a court ordered settlement agreement? Or does it cover both settlement agreements and civil judgements?

A. The discharge provision would be applicable to both settlement agreements and civil judgements as long as the overpayments are not fraudulent.

Q. Will the automation of the discharge include generating the informing notice to the client(s)?

A. Yes, CDSS is working with SAWS to ensure the informing notice is automated.

Q. Can the State provide an example of when there is more than one individual liable for the OP?

A. The most prominent example is two parent AUs where one parent has moved out of the home and is no longer receiving cash aid, but the other parent and child are still being aided. In this example, the overpayment will not be discharged for the parent no longer receiving aid and will only be discharged once both parents are no longer receiving CalWORKs cash aid for 36 consecutive months.

We are requesting CDSS address the fact that if counties collect on an OP that has a balance of less than \$250 after July 1, 2019, that counties do not have to repay it, but would simply quit collecting on the OP.

CDSS is currently conducting further research on this question.

✓ **Temporary Census Income** - The income for Cal-Fresh is exempt and counties will need to count income as appropriate for each program. AB 807 also exempts this income for CalWORKs purposes and the implementation is for Oct 1.

✓ **The California Welfare Directors Association has new elected officials for 2020:**

President - Ann Edwards, Sacramento County
Executive Officer - Chevon Kothari, Mariposa County

VP At Large - Elizabeth Kelly, Colusa County
VP of Administration - Bob Menicocci, Santa Clara County

VP of Services - Jennifer Vasquez, Yuba County
VP of Program - Barry Zimmerman, Ventura County
Secretary/Treasurer - Sanja Bugay, Kings County

✓ **Integrated Fraud Detection (IFD) Discontinuances** - Several counties have concerns with the IFD draft ACL. Counties are instructed not to discontinue CalWORKs if the client does not respond to a CalWORKs request for information and county is unable to obtain information.

The CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work Puzzling Funding Game

To allocate over about 2 billion dollars to county welfare offices, the Employment Services case-load is comprised of all adults that are required to participate in a WtW activity (including (1) participants, (2) sanctioned, non-compliant, and

(3) exempt due to good cause) as well as those with a WtW exemption who are voluntarily participating. See TABLE #3. In Table #1 the May 2019 WtW reports reveal the participants, sanctioned and exempts:

TABLE #1 - Actual 5/19 WtW Participation Facts

Type of WtW case	Number of Cases	Percentage	Does CWD Work on the Case?	Is Funding Justified?
Actual Unduplicated participants	68,294	40%	Yes	Yes
Sanctioned Case	51,425	30%	Maybe 10%	Only 10%
Exempt Cases	52,586	30%	No	No
TOTAL	172,305	100%	43%	Only 43%

Even though there are 68,294 cases actually being participating in some way, the counties receive funding for 157,368 cases. This is a 57% overpayment to counties.

domestic violence, mental health, substance abuse or housing issue, it does not mean they will be diverted to FS. They can still be required to participate with these problems identified in OCAT.

The major number of hours are allocated to the 29,159 cases that are receiving Family Stabilization (FS). What is FS? It is county assistance for adults who have domestic violence (DV), mental health, substance abuse or housing issues. The FS issues are revealed when the adult completes the [Online CalWORKs Appraisal Tool](#) (OCAT). If the adult identifies do-

The domestic violence, mental health, substance abuse services are essentially a referral to those service. Counties are already funded for DV, mental health, substance abuse services. The housing service is confusing in that counties are funded for Homeless Assistance Program, Housing Support Program and not the FS program. The only one that is an entitlement is the Homeless Assistance Program. TABLE #2 for the 1st quarter of 2019 FS homeless services.

TABLE #2 - January-March 2019 Housing Assistance data for FS.

Of the FS cases in Item 1 (Table 3), Homeless support/services received during the quarter:

Rental Assistance	490
Security Deposits	91
Utility Payments	166
Moving Cost Assistance	34
Hotel Assistance	804
Direct Assistance Payment to Families	1419
Families Receiving County Services without any Direct Assistance	2018
TOTAL	3603

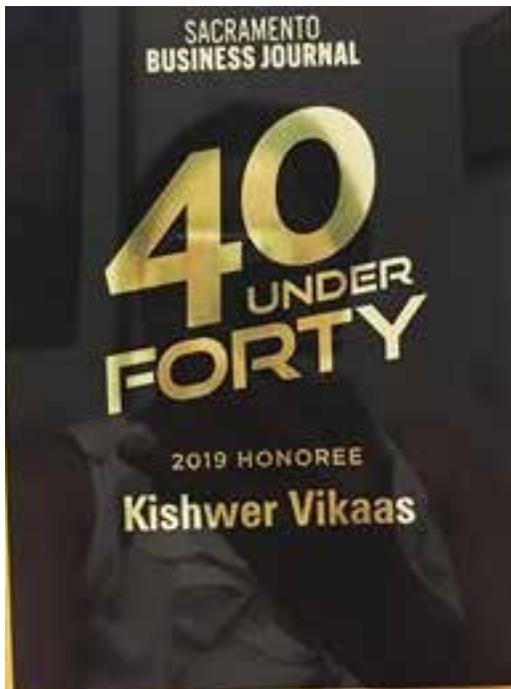
\$1.7 billion is available for the county single allocation for welfare to work services which includes an increase of \$43.9 million for fiscal year (FY) 2019-2020.

The highest amount of time is devoted to Family Stabilization (FS) Services. The second category is this so-called “barrier removal” which is how Family Stabilization is described in [ACL 15-09](#). This group is 80,311, which is 12,017 more cases than the actual number of cases participating in a WtW activity during May of 2019.

And then there are the young exempt and sanctioned cases that get 30 minutes a month. There are cases that are basically banked and in most counties are never looked at. In fact, in most cases when a sanctioned individual wants to participate, they contact their eligibility who tells them talk to the GAIN or welfare-to-work worker. When they call the GAIN office or the WtW office, they are told they do not have a worker to talk to. “Sorry, your case has not been assigned to anybody”. But that does that justify an unassigned case being allocated 30 minutes each month for being unassigned?

TABLE #3

CalWORKs WtW 2019-2020 Budget – employment specialist cost per hour-\$100.34	Cases	Time Per case	Total Funding Per Case	Admin. Costs	Direct Service Costs
1) Intensive cases, for WTW families in crises requiring intensive employment barrier removal, and that may also be receiving additional assistance from other supportive programs	29,159	5 hours	\$501.70	\$311.54	\$189.16
2) Basic cases, for WTW families requiring some barrier removal and work training to gain and retain employment,	80,311	3 hours	\$301.02	\$186.63	\$114.39
3) Work Ready cases, for families with job skills and work experience that are ready to re-enter the workforce with minimal supportive services, and	9,041	1 hour	\$100.32	\$62.20	\$38.12
4) Re-engagement and Young Child Exempt cases, for re-engagement efforts with cases that have been sanctioned more than 12 months and employment preparation for cases with a young child exemption.	38,857	30 minutes	\$50.16	\$31.10	\$19.06



Congratulations to CCWRO board member, Kishwer Vikaas for receiving the Sacramento Business Journal's "40 under 40" Award!

Kishwer, Immigration clinic staff attorney at University of the Pacific McGeorge Community Legal Services, was recognized for her outstanding immigration work with victims of violent crime, unaccompanied minors, Dreamers and so much more.

Kishwer is a great advocate and big part of our CCWRO family.



