



CDSS

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

January 24, 2013

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 13-02

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More CWDs
- Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
 ALL COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS
 ALL CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS
 ALL REFUGEE PROGRAM COORDINATORS
 ALL CHILD CARE COORDINATORS
 ALL TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) SENATE BILL (SB) 1041 EXPIRATION OF THE CalWORKs 48-MONTH TIME LIMIT EXEMPTION FOR LACK OF SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

REFERENCES: SB 1041 (CHAPTER 47, STATUTES OF 2012), ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) X4 4 (CHAPTER 4, STATUTES OF THE FOURTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF 2009), ALL COUNTY LETTERS (ACL) 09-46 and 12-53E, ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE (ACIN) I-60-10

The passage of SB 1041 on June 27, 2012, created significant changes to the CalWORKs program. The purpose of this letter is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with informing instructions for the expiration of the CalWORKs 48-month time limit exemption for good cause for lack of supportive services, originally enacted by AB X4 4.

Separate ACLs, listed below, have been or will be issued to implement the other program changes that have been enacted through SB 1041:

- CalWORKs and CalFresh: Implementation of the Annual Reporting/Child Only (AR/CO) System (ACL 12-49)
- Welfare-to-Work (WTW) 24-Month Time Clock Informing Notice Language for Clients (ACL 12-53), (ERRATA 12-53E)
- End of the Fiscal Year 2011-12 Cal-Learn Suspension (ACL 12-60)

- Implementation of the new WTW 24-Month Time Clock (ACL 12-67)
- Alignment of CalWORKs Hourly Work Participation Requirements to Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Requirements (ACL 12-69)
- Extension of Short Term Changes and the New Young Child Exemption Assembly Bill (AB) X4 4, (Chapter 4, Statutes of the Fourth Extraordinary Session of 2008) (ACL 12-72).
- Reengagement of CalWORKs Short-Term Exempt Individuals in WTW Activities (ACL 13-01)

Pursuant to ACL 12-72, clients who received good cause from WTW participation for lack of supportive services continued to have no months count toward their CalWORKs 48-month time limit through December 31, 2012. As of January 1, 2013, CWDs can continue to grant good cause to clients for a lack of supportive services when clients are unable to participate in their assigned WTW activities because a necessary supportive service is unavailable. However, **this no longer stops a client's CalWORKs 48-month time clock.**

The CWDs must inform, in writing and at least 10 days in advance, clients who were exempt for good cause for lack of supportive services on December 31, 2012, that their 48-month time clock will begin to tick the first of the following month. If adequate written notice has not already been issued to affected clients stating that their CalWORKs 48-month limit clock was restarting, a notice must be sent in the month of January 2013 with a clock-start date of February 1, 2013. Counties must ensure that these clients are offered an appointment for a comprehensive discussion on the new CalWORKs rules as soon as possible. The CWDs can use the recommended language below to notify clients that their CalWORKs 48-month time limit exemption has expired. The CWDs must also send the CW 2186A and information that identifies the county from which the information is coming from, such as a county header and specific contact options for the client.

Informing Language:

Your CalWORKs 48-month time clock exemption for lack of supportive services is ending. You do not have to participate in an activity until your county worker contacts you about the new rules in the CalWORKs program. These new rules include more welfare-to-work activity options and fewer participation hours for single-adult families. These rules do not apply to you until you are contacted by your worker.

The county will contact you soon to help you start in welfare-to-work. While you were exempt no time was counted against your CalWORKs 48-month time clock. Your CalWORKs 48-month time clock will restart on February 1, 2013.

There may be other reasons you do not have to participate in welfare-to-work activities. These reasons are called exemptions. These reasons may include disability or taking care of a sick household member. Also, there is a new young child exemption that you may qualify for and can choose to use one time only if

you have a child 23 months or younger. If you think you qualify for any exemption contact your worker and return the CW 2186A. If you do qualify for an exemption you may be able to volunteer.

In addition to the written notification, clients must be provided the opportunity for a comprehensive discussion with their caseworker to inform them of the new CalWORKs WTW 24-Month Time Clock as outlined in ACL 12-67, prior to having the client sign a new WTW plan.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this ACL, contact your CalWORKs Employment Bureau county consultant at (916) 654-2137 or your CalWORKs Eligibility consultant at (916) 654-1322.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

cc: CSAC
CWDA