

Amador County Plan Addendum for the Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Grant Program
{Reference WIC Section 10531(q)}

- ✓ AmadorWORKS is continuing to coordinate efforts with the local Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Grant partner, Mother Lode Job Training Agency (MLJTA), and Amador County Department of Social Services currently has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with Mother Lode Job Training Agency. While our number of referrals continues to be low, coordination efforts to identify and refer hard to serve CalWORKs recipients to the WtW Grant program has continued to improve. Currently, a full-time AmadorWORKS Social Worker is co-located with MLJTA and the Employment Development Department at the newly opened One-Stop in Amador County, 'Job Connection Amador', located conveniently in Jackson. Ideally, this will provide an improved seamless referral process. An AmadorWORKS staff member shall continue to attend the local PIC meetings that are held every other month, assisting in keeping the lines of communication open between all WtW Grant partners, and in sharing the successes of other Mother Lode Consortium counties.

- ✓ In an effort to improve coordination of welfare-to-work activities with the local WtW Grant partners, each assigned AmadorWORKS Social Worker works closely with the partnered Employment Specialist of MLJTA. After the initial eligibility determination, and prior to referral to the WtW Grant program, all recipients must participate in an Assessment. The staff of each agency then meets with the CalWORKs recipient to mutually discuss the appropriate activity(s) that would best benefit them, and to determine what supportive services are necessary for the individual to participate. The recipient shall then enter into an agreed upon Welfare-to-Work Plan. Since self-sufficiency is the mutual goal of all partners involved, the focus on welfare-to-work activities has been upon work experience and post-employment or job retention services. MLJTA has provided the development and assignment of the welfare-to-work activities, while AmadorWORKS has provided the supportive services, such as transportation, child care and ancillary services. Both partners work closely together in supervising a recipient's progress in their assigned activity. The AmadorWORKS Work Services Social Worker and the JTPA Employment Specialist continue to meet on a regular basis, usually bi-monthly, to discuss the progress of the CalWORKs recipient. This will likely increase due to the co-location of AmadorWORKS and MLJTA staff.

- ✓ AmadorWORKS Work Services staff and staff from MLJTA have developed a set of forms which are used in making initial referrals, and to follow-up on the progress of hard to serve CalWORKs recipients participating in the WtW Grant Program.

- ✓ Established mechanisms for determination of eligibility of CalWORKs recipients referred to the WtW Grant Program include: 1) use of the MEDS files from CDSS which provide a listing of adults and children with at least 30 months on TANF; 2) CASAS Reading and Math scores obtained from the Appraisal to determine grade level; 3) a description of the recipient's skills, abilities, interests, and work history, {which include the results of the COPEs, CAPS and COPS assessment tools}; 4) evaluations from Amador County Drug and Alcohol Services {which include the results of the SASSI}, assist in the identification of recipients whose problems with substance abuse would deter them from retaining and/or obtaining employment.

- ✓ With the co-location of AmadorWORKs staff and MLJTA staff in a centralized location, along with the sharing of combined resources, the goal of assisting hard to serve welfare recipients into becoming self-sufficient employees through the vehicle of the WtW Grant Program is becoming a closer reality.