

Yuba County Human Services Agency
WTW Grant Addendum to
CalWORKs County Plan
February 11, 2000

August 12, 1998, Yuba County Human Services Agency and Yuba County Office of Education, (Job Source), entered into a partnership agreement in order to provide services to Yuba County Hard-to-Serve cash aid participants.

This is the beginning of the second year of program services delivered under this agreement.

In the past thirteen months approximately 350 CalWORKs "Hard-to-Serve" participants have been referred to this program, from Yuba County Employment Technicians.

The two agencies have developed a very close working relationship in an effort to better serve this population of participants. CalWORKs Employment Technicians make a determination during intake appointment if the participant meets WtW criteria. If the participant meets the WtW criteria, the Employment Technician completes a referral and sends it to Yuba County Office of Education, Job Source staff. Job Source staff then proceeds to process the participant into the WtW program.

Weekly staffing are held between the Yuba County case manager and the job Source case manager to discuss any outstanding issues and to develop a Welfare to Work plan for the participant. These staffing have proven to be invaluable in eliminating miscommunications between the two agencies.

Services are also available through a contract with Mental Health to address mental health or substance abuse issues. When problems in either of these two areas arise, participants are referred for an assessment with one of the mental health staff. Treatment services when appropriate are written as part of the Welfare to Work Plan.

A new area that is currently being developed is that of sheltered workshops. Participants will be placed in one of a variety of sheltered work sites and closely supervised by county staff in an effort to develop work habits that will help the participant with the work skills he/she needs to develop to gain and retain employment.

Yuba County Office of Education submitted an application for the 15% governor's grant which recently was partially approved. These additional funds will help support the unmet needs identified in the original plan.

Paid work experience will be provided by local private temporary job placement agencies. These agencies will provide six weeks of work experience to those hard-to-serve participants who are considered to be job ready. After the work experience, the agencies have agreed to hire into their employment and/or place those participants that have demonstrated good attendance and performed well on their assigned work sites. A cash payment will be made to the agency for the placements that are made.

Fifty percent (50%) of the cash payment will be paid at the time of placement. The remaining fifty percent (50%) will be paid if the client has been retained in the placement for a period of no less than six months.

Additional services which are being developed to help “Hard-to-Serve” participants transition to full-time unsubsidized employment are:

1. Fixed route day, night and weekend unlimited monthly transportation passes. Twenty-four (24) hours taxi service when other transportation services are available.
2. A 24-hour hot-line operated by WtW participants and Community Service Workers.
3. Employee Assistance Program (drug/alcohol counseling, conflict resolution, stress and emotion management, communication skills, money management and other life skills workshops.
4. Other general supportive services.

The Yuba County District Attorney’s Office has committed to support the referral of “Hard-to-Serve” CalWORKs unemployed or underemployed non-custodial parents to the Job Source to receive services to obtain a job.

With the close working relationship that has been developed over the past thirteen months and the possible changes in the definition of “Hard-to-Serve”, the county and office of education are projecting a forty-five percent (45%) increase in participants being referred to this program. Yuba County’s Welfare to Work state matching funds have been included in the contract with YCOE to provide additional services to our participants.

We are very hopeful that the program will be even more successful in the coming year in helping our “Hard-to-Serve” participants develop skills needed to become successfully employed.