

## **FRESNO COUNTY PLAN ADDENDUM FOR THE WELFARE TO WORK GRANT PROGRAM**

The Welfare to Work (WtW) Grant Program, provided for in the Federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997, was amended with the 1999 passage of H.R. 3424. The amendment created less restrictive criteria for populations to be served under WtW.

Individuals who may now be served under the amendment include:

- ◆ Those who have received CalWORKs for thirty (30) months or more, or will become ineligible for CalWORKs within twelve (12) months due to the 60-month time limit (removed previous requirements of at least two specified barriers to employment)
- ◆ Those no longer receiving CalWORKs due to the 60-month time limit, but otherwise CalWORKs eligible (removed previous requirement of at least two specified barriers to employment)
- ◆ Those currently receiving CalWORKs and who have significant barriers to self-sufficiency under criteria defined by the local Workforce Investment Board
- ◆ Custodial parents with income below 100 percent of the poverty line

The amendment also changes the criteria for serving noncustodial parents.

This addendum describes the activities of the Fresno County Human Services System, Department of Employment and Temporary Assistance (E&TA) and local partner agencies in providing WtW services to these new populations allowed under the amendment.

E&TA receives WtW Grant matching funds from the State and coordinates with the federal WtW Grant administered by the Fresno Workforce Development Board (FWDB). The matching funds support such services as staff assigned to co-case management offered by E&TA at neighborhood sites, and the support services necessary to participate in the WtW Grant services. These services may include child care, transportation, or ancillary payments. In addition, E&TA maintains a contract with Fresno City College to fund a job developer, a portion of the office expenses incurred by the neighborhood sites, and specialized motivational and image enhancement workshops for WtW participants.

E&TA, the Fresno Workforce Development Board, and all of the agencies providing services to WtW participants under either the WtW Grant or matching funds are collectively developing a referral and recruitment process for eligible populations established under HR 3424. All CalWORKs recipients who have been on aid for 30 months or more have been identified by the State, and each participant is being screened for referral to the WtW Grant program. If an individual is not in a CalWORKs welfare-to-work component, or is not making

satisfactory progress in the component in which they are enrolled, he/she is referred to the WtW Grant program for services. The referral form also includes sections for those who are being referred as a non-custodial parent, within 12 months of ineligibility for CalWORKs, or eligible under the WtW Grant 30% category (former foster care youth, low income custodial parents, or possesses one of the other characteristics). The FWDB is recruiting participants through other community agencies, and has established an information phone number for interested participants and employers.

The FWDB and its subcontractors and partners will provide WtW Grant services primarily at neighborhood sites, to ensure program participation.