

## NEW RULES FOR CalWORKs WELFARE-TO-WORK ACTIVITIES

**Starting January 1, 2013, there are new rules that give you more Welfare-to-Work (WTW) activity options and require fewer participation hours for single-adult families.**

**The new rules do not change your CalWORKs 48-month time limit or your cash aid amount, but the WTW rules to stay on aid have changed.**

### **Summary of New WTW Rules**

- Starting January 1, 2013, there is a new **WTW 24-Month Time Clock** (within the 48-month time limit).
- For most families, there are fewer required hours of participation.
- You will have more choices of activities you can participate in during the WTW 24-Month Time Clock period. At the end of the WTW 24-Month Time Clock period, you will have fewer choices of activities that count.
- There are times when your WTW 24-Month Time Clock may stop. Months when your clock is stopped will not count towards your WTW 24-Month Time Clock.

### **Hours of Participation**

For most families, there are fewer required hours of participation:

Number of Adults in the Family (Assistance Unit)	Current Weekly Hours of Participation	New Weekly Hours of Participation
Single-adult with a child under 6 years old	32	20
Single-adult with no children under 6 years old	32	30
Two-parent families	35	35

### **More Choices in WTW Activities**

- You will have more choices of activities you can participate in during the WTW 24-Month Time Clock period. These activities include: work, education, training, and mental health, substance abuse, and/or domestic abuse services. There are no more “core” activities.
- **There is still a 48-month time limit on CalWORKs, but the WTW rules to stay on aid have changed.** If you have less than 24 months left on your 48-month time limit, you will have more choices of activities for the rest of your time on aid.
- The county must pay for child care, transportation, and/or other related expenses (supportive services) if you **need** them to participate in any approved WTW appointment or activity.

### **Your WTW 24-Month Time Clock Stops When:**

- You are in appraisal, job search, assessment, or in the process of developing a new WTW plan.
- You are meeting the required number of participation hours in certain activities. Your worker will explain this more to you at your next contact.
- You are in Cal-Learn.
- You are exempt from participating.
- The county determines that you have a good reason for not participating (called good cause).
- You are sanctioned.

**If you want to change your WTW plan, please contact your county.**  
**[This section can be revised to reflect county specific contact options]**

***Do I have to change my plan and/or reduce my hours?***

You have the option to change your plan by contacting your worker, but you do not have to. If you do not contact your worker to change your plan and/or hours:

- You will continue to receive the same level of supportive services. As a reminder, you will receive supportive services only for activities in your approved plan.
- The next time your worker contacts you he/she will discuss the new rules with you and give you a chance to change your plan at that time if you like.

***What if my aid was cut (sanctioned)?***

- If your aid was cut for not participating (called a ‘sanction’), these new rules may allow you to get more cash aid by ending your sanction.
- If you are sanctioned, please contact your worker right away to see if these new rules may end your sanction and give you more cash aid.

***What if I was told I don’t have to participate in activities (exempt) or I don’t think I can?***

- There are reasons you may not have to participate in WTW activities (exemptions). For example, these reasons may include disability or taking care of a sick household member.
- If you are not already exempt and think you should be, please contact your worker right away.
- If you are not required to participate, you may still be able to volunteer and get supportive services like child care. If you would like to volunteer, please contact your worker.

***What happens when my WTW 24-Month Time Clock runs out?***

- When your WTW 24-Month Time Clock runs out, you will have a shorter list of activities to choose to participate in to continue receiving the same amount of cash aid.
  - The shorter list may include employment, work experience, and community service.
  - Vocational education and training may also be allowed for up to one year after your WTW 24-Month Time Clock ends.
- Your worker will explain more about this shorter list of activities to you before your WTW 24-Month Time Clock runs out.
- Your county will send you a notice before you reach the end of your WTW 24-Month Time Clock. They will provide you with the shorter list of activities to choose from, and instructions on what you will need to do next in order to continue receiving the same level of cash aid.
- **Once your WTW 24-Month Time Clock ends, if you do not meet your new participation requirements, your cash aid may be lowered and it may affect your supportive services.**
- There are reasons that can give you more time (an extension) on your WTW 24-Month Time Clock. Your county will send you more information about these reasons before your WTW 24-Month Time Clock runs out.