

Addendum #5 – Butte County Community Service Plan

Presented to the Board of Supervisors on April 24, 2001

This Butte County Community Service Plan was developed pursuant to State statute and the provisions of Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) section 42-780.12. The Butte County Community Service component of its CalWORKs program is a continuation of services provided to recipients starting with activities agreed to under their welfare-to-work plan. It seeks to provide meaningful work assignments that allow participants who have reached their 18/24-month time limit to build on the skills they have already developed. Community Service will serve CalWORKs recipients who meet the conditions of MPP Section 42-710.1 and 42-710.2 (18 and 24-Month Time Limits) and MPP Section 42-711.9 (Community Service after Time Limits), additionally recipients who meet the definition of remote will be eligible for Community Service.

The design of the program was formulated through meetings with various groups interested in the creation of the County's CalWORKs plan. These groups included a Chico Chamber of Commerce sponsored employer group, a group of service agencies including non-profits, government, special districts, education, advocates and a group of TANF recipients. Additionally, four "town hall" meetings were held in geographic centers to gather public input.

The Butte County Department of Social Welfare (Department) has the overall responsibility for implementing the program and for case management of participants. The Butte County Private Industry Council (PIC) under contract with the Department of Social Welfare is responsible for project development and site management. PIC will coordinate participant progress with the Department's case managers. Community Service participants will be eligible for a complement of supportive services including childcare, transportation and ancillary services necessary for their participation. Participants are required to perform Community Service activities for a maximum of 32 hours per week for single parent households and 35 hours per week for two parent households. Participants who are part-time employed will have their Community Service hours reduced accordingly. The Department and PIC will comply with the nondisplacement protection in work activities section as outlined in MPP section 42-720.1 through 42-720.6. Participants who have been evaluated to need additional welfare to work activities that are required or relevant to the specific community service activity will have hours in those activities counted toward meeting their community service participation requirement.

Worksites have been developed to meet community needs utilizing both government and non-profit agencies and include individual job site placement, group projects or participant self-initiated, if the self-initiated placement is congruent with the participant's welfare-to-work plan. Assignments are based on

participant's needs. CalWORKs participants who reach their 18/24-month limit, including extensions will, after being appraised, sign a Welfare-to-Work Activity Agreement and be oriented to the program requirements and expectations and then be referred to PIC for placement. Placements are intended to be temporary and transitional to the extent feasible. Group projects may include basic education, language, and behavioral health services if they are required for successful participation.

Examples of projects include: Food Service where participants are involved in food preparation, customer service, bussing and waiting on tables, hosting, cashiering, cooking methods and presentation, meal planning and nutrition, costing, and inventory maintenance and selection. Computer Recycling and Warehousing where participants will learn to dismantle computers, sort and identify parts and perform basic assembly tasks. Reconstructed computers will be shipped to school kids throughout the State. Warehousing activities include, procuring and sorting the computer merchandise to inventory control, warehouse set up, forklift operation and shipping and receiving.

Criteria for extending the 18 month limit for up to six months as required by MPP 42-710.12 is: The CWD will reappraise the participant to determine if extenuating circumstances exist, if they do, the 18 month limit can be extended for up to an additional 6 months. The extenuating circumstances need to have prevented the participant from securing employment with in the local labor market.

Criteria for individuals returning to aid as described in MPP 42-710.31 is: an appraisal to determine what has prevented them from obtaining unsubsidized employment, and a determination as to whether additional activities are necessary or relevant to the participant's placement in community service.

All Community Service participants are continuously evaluated with the goal of moving them to unsubsidized employment as soon as possible. The involvement, cooperation and coordination of the community and service agencies has allowed this community service plan to meet the needs of CalWORKs recipients and respond to unmet needs in the Community.