

## **2003/2004 Performance Incentive Project Descriptions**

### **1. FIBER OPTICS CONNECTION PROJECT**

Lake County Department of Social Services (LCDSS) provides services from two primary locations within the County, Lower Lake and Lakeport. All administrative services, as well as eligibility services for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Food Stamps, Medi-Cal, CMSP and General Assistance Programs are performed at the Lower Lake facility. The Lakeport facility provides Children's and Adult Services including Child Welfare Services, Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services and Public Guardian/Administrator Services. Presently, LCDSS has a direct connection to the Health and Human Services Data Center (HHSDC) from our Lower Lake facility and an unreliable wireless bridge that connects us to the Lake County Information Technology (LCIT) Department located in the City of Lakeport. HHSDC is consolidating its seven network connections in Lake County into one Point of Presence at LCIT, thus eliminating the direct connection with our Lower Lake facility. Our Lower Lake facility would then be dependent on an unreliable wireless connection to HHSDC.

The installation of a Fiber Optic Connection between Lower Lake and LCIT in Lakeport is necessary for reliable network connectivity. This Project will be implemented by entering into a contract with the LCIT, which will be responsible to provide us with fiber optic connectivity and maintenance of same for a period of four years. The total cost to complete this Project is in excess of one hundred eighteen thousand dollars (\$118,000.00). Sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) of Performance Incentive Funds is being requested for this Project to benefit the CalWORKs clients and "needy families" served through our Lower Lake facility. Without utilizing Performance Incentive Funds for this Project, it will be many years before we will be able to move forward with the installation of a reliable network connection and we would have to retain an unstable network.

This Project meets TANF Goals #1 and 2 in that providing a reliable network connection, staff will be able to provide timely, adequate employment and eligibility services to CalWORKs and "needy families" so that their children may be cared for in their own home and to help end the dependence of CalWORKs families on government benefits by promoting job preparation and employment. Staff is dependent upon this connection for access to Interim Statewide Automated Welfare System (ISAWS) and Medi-Cal Eligibility Data Systems (MEDS) and to issue benefits and supportive service payments. With the impending implementation of Electronic Benefit Transfers (EBT), this connection will be vitally important in meeting State regulations regarding the time frames for benefit issuance. In order to meet our client's needs it is imperative that we have a reliable network connection.