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## **Subsidized Employment for Low Income Californians Fact Sheet**

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has been aggressive in efforts to bring Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Funds (ECF) into California. A segment of the funding is made available to provide subsidized employment opportunities to eligible low-income Californians to help combat high unemployment. California expects to draw down as much as \$343 million for subsidized employment assistance.

### **Current Situation**

- At this time, approximately 48 counties are offering subsidized employment programs with TANF ECF funding. It is anticipated that tens of thousands of individuals will be able to take advantage of these employment opportunities.
- The federal government reimburses 80 percent of county expenditures for subsidized employment.
- Counties have been working with other county departments, the United Way, Chambers of Commerce, and others to market the program and expand subsidized employment opportunities for CalWORKs and other low-income families. Employees are placed within these organizations or in participating businesses and agencies to attain work experience.
- Counties are also collaborating with their local Workforce Investment Boards to offer summer employment programs for low-income youth.

### **Who is Eligible for Subsidized Employment?**

In addition to welfare to work program (CalWORKs) families, certain families who are not receiving CalWORKs may also qualify. To qualify a “needy family,” a family must have an income of less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, which translates into less than \$3,675 a month for a family of four. In addition, families must meet certain criteria:

1. A family with a minor child
2. A non-custodial parent not residing with the minor child
3. A woman in her third trimester of pregnancy
4. A family in which a minor child has been temporarily absent (removed from the home due to abuse or neglect for less than 12 months) and parent(s) is participating in family reunification services.

Older youths who are 24 years of age or under residing with and related to the minor child of a CalWORKs or “needy family” are also eligible. Current foster care youth are eligible if they are considered to be a minor child and are placed in a CalWORKs or needy family.

### **Examples of County Programs**

As of May 2010, subsidized employment programs have resulted in more than 20,000 jobs. California has worked closely with counties to disburse funds so they can craft a program to meet their needs. For example:

- In May, Los Angeles County had 6,452 placed in subsidized employment.
- As of May, San Francisco County had 2,687 individuals participating in the program.

## **CDSS Contact Information**

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