

Amador County Plan Addendum for the Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2000/2001
{Reference WIC Section 10531(q)}

- AmadorWORKs continues to coordinate efforts with the local Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Grant partner, Mother Lode Job Training Agency (MLJTA), with a current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place. Our number of referrals has continued to increase due to the coordinating efforts of both agencies; AmadorWORKs in identifying hard to serve CalWORKs recipients, and MLJTA in serving those recipients. Currently, one full-time AmadorWORKs Employment and Training Worker is co-located with MLJTA and other partners at the “Job Connection Amador”, the One-Stop employment and training facility located conveniently in Jackson. Other staff members rotate on a daily basis to facilitate welfare-to-work activity workshops at the “Job Connection Amador”. Having a full-time staff member on-site at the One-Stop employment center continues to provide an improved seamless referral process. An AmadorWORKs staff member continues to attend the local Motherlode Workforce Investment Board meetings held every other month, keeping the lines of communication open between all WtW Grant partners, and sharing the successes of other Mother Lode Consortium counties.

- In an effort to improve coordination of welfare-to-work activities with the local WtW Grant partner, each assigned AmadorWORKs Employment and Training Worker works closely with the partnered Employment Specialist of MLJTA. After the initial eligibility determination, prior to referral to the WtW Grant Program, all recipients must participate in an assessment. The staff of each agency then meets with the CalWORKs recipient to mutually discuss the appropriate activities that could best benefit them in becoming self-sufficient, and to determine what supportive services are necessary for the individual to successfully participate. The recipient shall then enter into an agreed upon Welfare-to-Work Plan. Since self-sufficiency is the mutual goal of all partners involved, the focus on welfare-to-work activities has been upon subsidized employment and job retention services. MLJTA has provided the development and assignment of the welfare-to-work activities, some of which have been on-the-job training with local employers, and vocational training in computer applications and life skills training. AmadorWORKs has provided the necessary supportive services, such as transportation, child care and ancillary expenses, some of which are funded through the WtW Grant State match. Both partners work closely together in supervising a recipient’s progress in their assigned activity. The AmadorWORKs Employment and Training Worker and the JTPA Employment Specialist continue to meet on a regular basis, usually bi-monthly, to discuss the progress of the CalWORKs recipient. Since the co-location of AmadorWORKs and MLJTA staff at the “Job Connection Amador”, coordinating efforts have greatly improved, reflecting an increased success of the participants.

- Staff from AmadorWORKs and staff from MLJTA have developed a set of forms that are used in making initial referrals, and to follow-up on the progress of hard to serve recipients participating in the WtW Grant Program. All eligible recipients interested in activities and services offered under the WtW Grant Program may be referred, without focus on any specific population.
- Established mechanisms for the determination of eligibility and suitability of CalWORKs recipients referred to the WtW Grant Program include: 1) use of the MEDS files from CDSS which provide listings of adults and children with at least 30 months on TANF; 2) a description of the recipient's skills, abilities, interests, and work history, {which include the results of the COPEs, CAPS, COPS, and CASAS assessment tools}; and 3) evaluations from Amador County Drug and Alcohol Services and Amador County Mental Health Services, which assist in the identification of recipients whose problems with substance abuse and/or mental health issues could deter them from retaining and/or obtaining employment
- With the newly amended WtW Grant Program regulations, AmadorWORKs now has a much larger pool of recipients who are eligible for referral to the program. This comes at a time when more hard to serve individuals are in need of additional training, education, and job skills activities. The co-location of AmadorWORKs staff and MLJTA staff in a centralized One-Stop, along with the sharing of combined resources, has assisted hard to serve welfare recipients become self-sufficient individuals through the vehicle of the Welfare-to-Work Grant Program.