December 13, 2016

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-89-16

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
    ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
    ALL COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS
    ALL COUNTY REFUGEE PROGRAM COORDINATORS
    ALL COUNTY CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
    ALL CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES
    ALL TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF THE SECOND ANNUAL SENATE BILL (SB) 1041 PROGRAM EVALUATION REPORT

This letter announces the release of the second annual SB 1041 Program Evaluation report. SB 1041 made significant changes to the CalWORKs program, including the creation of the Welfare-to-Work 24-Month Time Clock and implementation of federally aligned hourly participation requirements, among other changes. SB 1041 also required an independent evaluation of the implementation and outcomes of changes instituted by the bill. The RAND Corporation, in partnership with the American Institutes for Research (AIR), is contracted to administer the SB 1041 evaluation and produce annual reports on the status of the research study. This is the second of four scheduled annual reports on the program evaluation, culminating in a final report due in late 2017.

Here is a direct link to the report, available on the RAND Corporation website:
http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1348.html

The legislatively mandated evaluation, which began in July 2014, focuses on SB 1041 implementation and the resulting changes to the CalWORKs program at the state and county levels, and the impact on recipients and caseworkers. The SB 1041 Program Evaluation includes five components, consisting of:

- Process Study – This component examines how the state and counties implemented the SB 1041 changes, how well clients understood the new rules, changes in county practices, and coordination among welfare programs.
Recipient Status Study – This component serves as a point-in-time “snap shot” of the activities and services clients receive.

Impact Study for CalWORKs Recipients – This component focuses on the number of families participating, completion of Welfare-to-Work (WTW) activities, treatment of barriers, employment status and earnings, and child well-being.

Impact Study for County Welfare Departments – This component examines county staff levels and distribution, available state and county resources, supportive services payments, provision and timing of WTW activities to clients.

Tracking Study – This component consists of a study of cohorts of clients over time, while on and after leaving aid.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or the RAND SB 1041 Program Evaluation, please contact CDSS Research Analyst Michael Billingsley at (916) 653-7264, or CDSS Federal Performance and Policy Unit Manager Geoffrey Miller at (916) 654-6091. You may also contact Teryn Mattox of the RAND Corporation directly at (310) 393-0411, ext. 6134.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

DAMIEN LADD, Chief (Acting)
Employment and Eligibility Branch