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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
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AUGUST 7, 2020

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

FROM: JENNIFER HERNANDEZ
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ALL COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES AND HISPANIC FAMILIES SURVEY

California is one of thirteen states participating in a nationwide Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) research project conducted by the Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy. The purpose of the research study is to better understand how TANF is experienced among Hispanic families and children. CDSS supports the goals of this study and encourages county welfare departments to participate in a voluntary TANF administrator survey as part of the research project. The survey should take no longer than 20 minutes and includes TANF policy information from the perspectives of practitioners, administrators and managers. Any information provided will be kept confidential by the Duke University researchers and will only be reported in a group or aggregated form. Responses will never be linked to any personal information nor be shared with individuals outside of Duke or the research project.

The [TANF administrator survey](#) can be accessed online. At the completion of the TANF administrator survey, respondents will be asked to provide the names and contact information of four front-line staff who interact with Hispanic applicants and clients. Those individuals identified in the TANF administrator survey will then receive an invitation to complete the [front-line TANF worker survey](#). The county welfare department, if preferred, may send the front-line TANF worker survey link directly to identified front-line staff.

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Once the surveys are complete, survey responses are automatically submitted through the survey software. We appreciate your time and respectfully ask that all surveys be submitted by August 24, 2020.

If you are interested in the study, you can read more about it at [Duke's Center for Child and Family Policy](#). If you have questions or concerns regarding the purpose or content of the survey, please contact Michael Billingsley at michael.billingsley@dss.ca.gov or Dr. Lisa Gennetian, from the Duke University research team, at lisa.gennetian@duke.edu.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division