

ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 74 COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT FAMILY STABILIZATION (FS) PLAN

COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT (CWD):

El Dorado County

DATE:

March 31, 2014

CWD CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME/POSITION:

Debbie Stack/Program Manager

ADDRESS:

3057 Briw Road, Placerville, CA 95667

PHONE NUMBER:

530 642 7325

EMAIL ADDRESS:

debbie.stack@edcgov.us

Please describe how your CWD plans to utilize funds allocated for the FS Program and include responses to the following nine categories. There is an additional text box to enter other information about your FS program if needed. The text boxes will accept up to 1,000 characters of text. If more space is needed you may also submit attachments to accommodate the additional information. You may also attach any materials that address each of the areas below if the materials can be converted to a pdf format for posting to the CDSS website (i.e. not scanned copies).

Please indicate the date your CWD will begin offering an FS program:

May 2014

What types of services will be provided under the FS program?

- Homelessness
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Other, please list Refer to the end of this document

How will clients be informed of the FS program?

The CalWORKs Welfare to Work (WTW) and Eligibility staff will be trained to refer to the FS program in discussions that they have with their clients. The FS case managers will make direct contact with the clients during the appraisal process; discuss the FS program during Job Club; discussion at all face to face and telephone interviews.

Information regarding the FS program will be shared with the Linkages Team and Child Protective Services (CPS) so that those case managers may share it with their clients. Brochures will be developed and shared with case managers and with partner programs and agencies.

How will clients be able to request participation in the FS program?

Clients will be able to request participation in the FS program by making a request of their case manager. Other referrals will come from CPS case managers, Eligibility Workers, Social Workers and/or community and agency partners. Brochures will be developed to communicate the program information to our partners and clients.

How will the county determine which clients will be selected for the FS program?

WTW has identified a review team consisting of management, supervisors and workers to review client cases being referred to the FS program. Participation in the CPS/WTW linkages program will be

a factor in the decision as to which families are in the most need of FS services.

El Dorado County is also considering the development of a FS tool for use in helping to identify clients in need of Family Stabilization services or to identify clients in crisis or at risk of falling into a crisis situation. The tool will reference the Welfare and Intuitions code mentioned below.

Per ACL 14-12,

“Although not an exclusive list, W&I Code Section 11325.24 (a) (2) defines the type of situation or crisis that may qualify a client for FS. These situations or crises include, but are not limited to:

- Homelessness or imminent risk of homelessness;
- A lack of safety due to domestic violence; and/or
- Untreated or undertreated behavioral needs, including mental health or substance abuse-related needs.

Examples of additional services that counties may provide under FS include:

- Treatment for family members, if the situation interferes with client’s ability to participate in WTW activities;
- Intensive day treatment, non-medical outpatient drug free treatment, and residential treatment;
- Emergency shelter;
- Movement to transitional housing;
- Rehabilitative services; and/or
- Substance abuse counseling/treatment.”

How will the county notify the clients that are participating in the FS program?

Clients will be notified in writing of their acceptance in FS directly by the case managers. Once a family is accepted into the FS program, a formal FS Plan will be developed and signed by both the client(s) and the case manager.

How often will county staff contact FS families?

WTW staff will be in contact with FS clients weekly, by phone or in person with frequent home visits as part of FS Plan and the intensive case management.

How will FS Intensive Case Management differ from general Case Management?

Per ACL 14-12, “The FS program provides intensive case management and services that may be in addition to those provided by the county’s WTW program to clients who are experiencing an identified situation or crisis”

Dedicated case managers will be assigned to work FS cases. These case managers may have smaller caseloads so that they can provide more intensive case management. Family Stabilization clients will receive frequent face to face visits, weekly contact, home visits, and additional supportive or ancillary services. Family Stabilization clients may also receive additional referrals to services provided by partnerships within the community. Case managers will have more time to help clients with follow up assignments, completing applications for housing, and/or anything else for which the client needs additional one on one time from their case manager.

The FS clients will have responsibility to follow up, they may be assigned to attend more classes/meetings as needed; Next Skills, substance abuse counseling/rehabilitative services, financial/budgeting, and these commitments will be added to the family’s FS plan.

FS families will also have access to crisis intervention assistance that may take the form of housing vouchers/housing payments, relocation assistance, gas vouchers, gift cards, assistance with legal issues and ancillary services above and beyond the usual Welfare to Work supportive services. The Family Stabilization program is designed to address crisis situations for families, to keep families from falling into crisis and help to stabilize those families and put them on the path to full participation in WTW activities.

For those clients who are granted housing or relocation assistance, the goal will be to find housing close to reliable public transportation, jobs, and services. Local policies regarding supportive services may be amended or expanded to support the family. For example, car repairs may exceed the blue book value, one-time homeless assistance and or emergency shelter options may be expanded, and direct vendor payments may be part of the Family Stabilization Plan.

Note: Due to the immediate need for housing, checks to property management services and or property owners will be processed within one business day and/or rushed for same day delivery.

Note: Exceptions to local processes will only be made with the approval of the FS review team. Each family's FS Plan will be unique to that family and the types of crisis intervention that will be needed cannot be predetermined, so the program will need to be flexible. Purchases and payments outside of the usual WTW purchases may need to be approved, even if those services are not listed in this plan, depending on the issues facing each family. This program flexibility is within the intent and scope of Family Stabilization per ACL 14-12. That ACL states that, "FS is designed to ensure a basic level of stability within a family prior to, or concurrently with, participation in welfare-to-work (WTW) activities. The goal of FS is to increase client success in light of the flexible WTW 24-Month Time Clock through more intensive case management and the assignment of clients to additional activities or barrier removal services necessary to ultimately achieve self-sufficiency. CalWORKs recipients are eligible to participate in FS if a county determines that a family is experiencing an identified situation and/or crisis that is destabilizing the family and would interfere with adult clients' ability to participate in WTW activities and services."

What types of partnerships will you develop for your FS Program? (i.e. Community based organizations, non-profits, etc.)

Partnerships are already in place for counseling, domestic violence, substance abuse and mental health services. Additional partnerships are being developed to include, weatherization, transitional and/or subsidized housing.

WTW already has a strong partnership with Child Protective Services through the Linkages program and will continue to maintain that partnership.

What strategies will you use to link clients with these providers?

The Public Housing Authority (PHA) has agreed to work closely with WTW as they have noticed that oftentimes clients who are eligible for the Housing Choice Voucher program fail to complete applications or cannot get their credit checks completed. Case managers working with FS clients can assist clients in obtaining subsidized housing and removing housing as a family crisis issue.

WTW is also partnering with the Family Self Sufficiency program, California State Department of Rehabilitative Services, local non-profit agencies, low income housing managers, and behavioral health providers.

WTW will not only make referrals to these services but with intensive case management, can accompany the client to the appointments, or make other transportation options available.

What strategies does your CWD have to transition clients to WTW?

El Dorado County case managers will help the client transition to WTW activities by setting short and long term goals with the families; discuss milestones, those achieved as well as those goals at risk of being unmet. The expectation is that the intensive case management will help the client stabilize within six months and be prepared to participate in WTW activities, including but not limited to Job Club, Expanded Subsidized Employment, vocational training, etc.

How does the FS program compliment or enhance your current services?

FS helps El Dorado County add more services, remove additional barriers, allows for more intensive case management, as well as more one on one time with clients. It also enhances the already active Linkages program.

Please include any other components of your FS program not covered above:

In accordance with ACL 13-81, ACL 14-12, CFL 13/14-32, CFL 13/14-35 El Dorado County may provide the following to families involved in the Family Stabilization program:

Homeless Assistance: Emergency homeless assistance, transitional housing, relocation assistance and/or moving related expenses, (i.e., trucks, packaging supplies, labor, etc.), subsidized rent, rental deposits, fees for credit checks or other housing related fees, deposits/back payments for utilities, and any other costs associated with providing safe and stable housing for the family.

Mental Health: Intensive counseling and in- or out-patient treatment and/or residential treatment to include treatment for family members, as needed to help stabilize the family.

Substance Abuse: Counseling/treatment, to include residential/outpatient treatment for family members as needed to help stabilize the family.

Domestic Violence: Family safety related services, including but not limited to costs related to services, and costs associated with legal issues related to the family's safety.

Rehabilitative Services: Supported work assignments, disability or skill assessments/testing, vocational assistance, and assistance with helping disabled, and/or potentially disabled clients obtain the proper documentation to be accepted into other appropriate and/or supportive programs such as ALTA California Regional Center, Department of Rehabilitation, Social Security, etc.

Other: Vehicle repair/transportation assistance that might exceed current blue book value of vehicles, purchase of bicycles and/or bicycle repairs, assistance with past due fines, (except fines resulting from felonious behavior and/or past due child support payments) financial training classes, legal assistance to help remove barriers to employment and/or participation, intensive case management, home visits, Next Skills training, mentoring, social security advocacy, and training addressing any issues which are contributing to the destabilization of the family.

Note: The county plan and/or desk guide may be amended as situations arise. This plan is intended to be broad and not to limit the program's ability to respond to unique situations which may not always be able to be predetermined.

El Dorado County expects its FS plan to evolve as families are served and new ways of enhancing the program become apparent to the Welfare to Work staff.

Please fill out this form electronically and submit to FSProgram@dss.ca.gov

Note: CWDs must submit their plans no later than 30 days after implementation of their FS Programs. CDSS may request subsequent submittals of AB 74 FS Plans from CWDs depending on the needs of the program.
