

**FRESNO COUNTY CalWORKs PLAN ADDENDUM FOR THE
WELFARE TO WORK STATE MATCH GRANT PROGRAM
FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002**

The Welfare to Work (WtW) Grant Program, provided for in the Federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997, was amended with the 1999 passage of H.R. 3424. The amendment created less restrictive criteria for populations to be served under WtW.

The following populations may now be served under the amendment, and will be the focus of referral activity:

- ◆ Those who have received CalWORKs for thirty (30) months or more, or will become ineligible for CalWORKs within twelve (12) months due to the 60-month time limit (removed previous requirements of at least two specified barriers to employment)
- ◆ Those no longer receiving CalWORKs due to the 60-month time limit, but otherwise CalWORKs eligible (removed previous requirement of at least two specified barriers to employment)
- ◆ Those currently receiving CalWORKs and who have significant barriers to self-sufficiency under criteria defined by the local Workforce Investment Board;
- ◆ Custodial parents with income below 100 percent of the poverty line.

The local Workforce Investment Board definition for significant barriers to self-sufficiency is “Currently receiving CalWORKs assistance or would otherwise be eligible for CalWORKs if he/she had not reached their federal 60-month lifetime limit on aid; and has at least one of the following characteristics associated with, or predictive of long-term welfare dependence; dropped out of school, teenage pregnancy, having a poor work history, under-employed workers, defined as seasonal or part-time workers employed in low-paying jobs, victims of domestic violence, disabled or monolingual individuals.”

No definitions were defined for full-time employment.

This addendum describes the activities of the Fresno County Human Services System/Department of Employment and Temporary Assistance (E&TA) and local partner agencies in providing WtW services to these new populations allowed under the amendment.

E&TA receives WtW Grant matching funds from the State and coordinates with the federal WtW Grant administered by the Fresno Workforce Development Board (FWDB). The matching funds support such services as staff assigned to co-case management offered by E&TA at neighborhood sites, and the support services necessary to participate in the WtW Grant services. These services may include child-care, transportation, or ancillary payments. In addition, E&TA

maintains a contract with Fresno City College to fund a job developer, a portion of the office expenses incurred by the neighborhood sites, and specialized motivational and image enhancement workshops for WtW participants.

All CalWORKs recipients who were on aid for 30 months or more were identified by the State, and each participant was screened for referral to the WtW Grant program. If an individual was not in a CalWORKs welfare-to-work component, or was not making satisfactory progress in the component in which they were enrolled, he/she was referred to the WtW Grant program provider for services. The referral form also included sections for those who were referred as a non-custodial parent, within 12 months of ineligibility for CalWORKs, or eligible under the WtW Grant 30% category (former foster care youth, low income custodial parents, or possesses one of the other characteristics).

Fresno County will not be receiving WtW State Match Grant Funds for fiscal year 2002-03; therefore, beginning April 1, 2002 E&TA will transition WtW participants who are receiving CalWORKs cash assistance back into the CalWORKs Welfare To Work (WTW) program on a flow basis using the following guidelines:

- If the 18 or 24 month time limit has not expired, the participant will transition to WTW at a component change or compliance review, but no later than June 30, 2002.
- If the participant is in a vocational component that extends beyond June 30, 2002, and the component is not available through E&TA, he/she will remain in that WtW program until he/she completes it or fails to comply. If the participant completes the vocational component he/she will remain in the WtW program for a maximum of thirty (30) days to provide the opportunity to be placed in unsubsidized employment.
- If the 18 or 24 month time limit has expired and the participant is in a paid Community Service or paid Work Experience component, he/she will remain in WtW until that component is completed, or he/she fails to comply. The participant may remain in a paid Community Service component, if appropriate, until he/she reaches the 60-month lifetime limit of CalWORKs assistance.

E&TA will continue to pay for supportive services for its CalWORKs WtW participants out of its CalWORKs single allocation.