

## **( r ) COORDINATION OF WELFARE-TO-WORK ACTIVITIES WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCILS**

How will the county coordinate welfare-to-work activities with the local private industry councils or alternate administrative entities designated by the Governor to administer local welfare-to-work programs, including the expenditure of state or other matching funds provided by the county welfare department for welfare-to-work activities. [Reference: WIC Section 10531(q)].

### **COUNTY RESPONSE**

The federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997 includes Welfare-to-Work (WtW) grant funds intended to serve individuals with characteristics associated with long term welfare dependency. In addition to administering a comprehensive welfare-to-work plan under the CalWORKs Program, SSA and the three local Private Industry Councils, now called Workforce Investment Boards (WIB), work in a coordinated effort to provide WtW services to the target population of individuals with characteristics associated with welfare dependency.

A service delivery plan is successfully in place and the WIB's provide the following services to enrolled participants:

- Four Week Job Readiness
- Vocational Assessment
- Work Experience Program
- Vocational Training and Education
- On-the-Job Training
- Job Placement
- Post-employment Services, to the extent they are not duplicated by County Job Retention Contract Services

SSA continues in its successful collaboration with the Workforce Investment Boards. As of July 2000, we have the following formula grant statistics to report:

Referrals:     **1377**  
Enrolled:     **599**  
Placements:   **371**

In addition to the existing formula grant programs with the three Workforce Investment Boards, we have developed projects with other organizations to further enhance our service delivery.

### **The Cambodian Family**

Orange County's first competitive WtW grant was awarded to The Cambodian Family. This program provides enhanced services to the Southeast Asian population in the county. The goal is to improve chances for self-sufficiency through improved English, vocational and lifeskills training, and an increase in earnings. The program began in May of 1999, and successfully continues.

### **Vietnamese Community of Orange County**

This program targets Vietnamese immigrants and Vietnamese-American citizens. Focusing on services for the hard-to-employ, this program offers Job Readiness Assistance, Assessment services, Career Training, and Cognitive Skills testing. The program began in September, 1999.

### **Mexican American Opportunity Foundation/Delhi Center**

MAOF/Delhi is a partnership between two Community Based Organizations and seeks to provide Spanish-speaking women in the City of Santa Ana with opportunities to become certified/licensed child care providers by providing classroom instruction and training and assisting with related services. This program began in May, 2000.

### **Anaheim Transportation Network**

Orange County has been successful in obtaining employment for many participants but transportation is often a significant barrier. This program seeks to provide a variety of transportation services to job seekers and employed participants in the City of Anaheim area, linking participants with employers in the area. ATN began service in July, 2000.

The County of Orange is currently considering proposals from the three WIB's to expend WtW State Match funds on needed programs in the County, focusing on services to emancipating youth and non-custodial parents.

Orange County and its partners deploy a variety of mechanisms for referring participants to these DOL programs:

- Direct referral by a County Case Manager, based on the Case Manager's knowledge of participant need and eligibility
- Reverse referral, whereby a partner agency working with a WTW participant initiates the referral
- The results of a vocational assessment may recommend a particular program as appropriate

SSA will continue to maximize WtW funds wherever possible, to craft the finest welfare-to-work programs. SSA and the WIB's and other partners meet regularly to evaluate and fine tune the service strategy. Revisions to the scope and focus of the federal WtW program may be warranted in the future. Addenda to the Orange County CalWORKs plan will be presented as required by state law.