

**Los Angeles County CalWORKs Plan
February 2004**

Transportation

Briefly describe how transportation services will be provided. [Reference: WIC Section 10531(g)]

As we have in the past, we will continue to subsidize transportation needed by CalWORKs participants in order for them to take part in welfare-to-work activities, transport children to and from child care/school and to secure and maintain employment. Transportation funds are also issued for parking fees or to secure a Student ID, required for a student discount bus pass. Need is determined at each participant contact, change of welfare-to-work assignment, or when notified by the participant or provider of a change in transportation need, such as having obtained employment. Under CalWORKs, transportation services will also be extended to participants who take advantage of post-employment services.

We provide reimbursement for actual mileage or the cost of public transportation, such as bus, vanpool, commuter rail, etc., whichever is less. Mileage is calculated using a two-tier payment schedule, a set rate for the first 500 miles, and a lower rate for mileage over 500 miles per participant per month. The first 500 mile cut-off is determined based on the national average commuting distance of 25 miles round trip times an average of 20 workdays per month. The 25 mile round trip commute distance covers travel to and from work or welfare-to-work activities. Additionally, the first tier rate is equal to the County employee mileage reimbursement rate. The second tier is based on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) standard vehicle operation costs, such as gas, oil, and tires.

We provide reimbursement for taxi fare to cover only the cost for travel to the nearest bus stop, Metrolink, or commuter rail station. Exceptions to this limit will be made on a case-by-case basis.

We will continue to collaborate with the major public transportation operators in Los Angeles County in order to provide the best possible and least costly public transportation for CalWORKs participants and those participants who move from welfare-to-work.