

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



December 27, 2001

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-111-01

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL WELFARE TO WORK COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: CalWORKs FUNDING SOURCES FOR SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

REFERENCE: All County Information Notice (ACIN) I-16-00, All County Letter (ACL) 00-57 and 00-72, and County Fiscal Letter (CFL) 00/01-29

The purpose of this letter is to clarify, at the request of county CalWORKs, Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs, and Domestic Violence staff, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) funding sources that can be used to provide domestic abuse services to participants who have been identified as victims of domestic abuse.

All CalWORKs applicants and recipients shall be informed verbally and in writing, and to the extent required by law, in language understood by the recipient, of the availability of services designed to assist individuals to identify, escape, or stop future domestic abuse as well as to deal with the effects of domestic abuse (MPP Section 42-715.11).

CalWORKs legislation provided counties a great deal of flexibility in the design and implementation of local CalWORKs programs. Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11495 indicates that the intent of the Legislature was to adopt a family violence provision. This was in recognition that some individuals who may need public assistance have been or are victims of abuse, and intends to ensure that recipients who are past or present victims of abuse are not placed at further risk or unfairly penalized by CalWORKs requirements and procedures. The intent of the Legislature was that CalWORKs recipients participate in welfare-to-work activities to the full extent of their abilities, including participation in counseling and treatment programs, as appropriate, to enable the recipient to obtain unsubsidized employment and move towards self-sufficiency.

Counties are provided Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant funding through a Single Allocation for the aid and services necessary to assist CalWORKs recipients to obtain employment or participate in other welfare-to-work activities. Additional State General Fund dollars are provided to counties for mental health and substance abuse and treatment services.

Counties may use their Single Allocation to fund services to victims of domestic abuse to enable the individual to participate in welfare-to-work activities that lead to the individual becoming employed. In addition, non-medical mental health, substance abuse, and counseling services related to domestic abuse issues may be funded through the Single Allocation. However, to increase the level of services that are provided to victims of domestic abuse, the Department encourages counties to spend their Mental Health and Substance Abuse Allocations to provide treatment services to victims of domestic abuse for whom mental health or substance abuse issues are barriers to attaining self-sufficiency through employment.

Counties may also use their CalWORKs Performance Incentives funds for non-medical services to victims of domestic abuse to the extent that they directly lead to the accomplishment of one of the four purposes of the TANF program as outlined in All County Letters 00-57 and 00-72.

The attached document contains a list of many, but not all, of the services for domestic abuse victims that can be supported by the different CalWORKs funding sources. If you have any questions regarding county expense claims, please contact your Fiscal Policy Bureau Analyst at (916) 657-3440. If you have any questions regarding work support services, please contact your county's Work Support Services Bureau Analyst at (916) 654-1424.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed BY
Jo Weber on 12/27/01

JO WEBER, Chief
Work Services and Demonstration Projects Branch

Attachment

CalWORKs FUNDING SOURCES FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Services/Activities	Single Allocation (TANF and State General Funds)	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Allocations (State General Fund)	County Performance Incentives (TANF)
Substance abuse treatment	✓ (Non-medical)	✓	✓ (Non-medical)
Mental health counseling	✓ (Non-medical)	✓	✓ (Non-medical)
Individual counseling of the participant and children	✓ (Non-medical)	✓	✓ (Non-medical)
Group counseling	✓	✓	✓
Parent skills training*	✓	✓	✓
Safety Planning*	✓	✓	✓
Independent Living Skills*	✓	✓	✓
Employment preparation and referral	✓		✓
Job development and placement	✓		✓
Outreach activities	✓		✓
Treatment including rehabilitative services and employment counseling	✓ (Non-medical)	✓	✓ (Non-medical)
Capacity building	✓		✓
Immigration services	✓ (referral only)		✓ (referral only)
Legal Services	✓ (referral only)		✓ (referral only)
Medical and public health assistance	✓ (referral only)		✓ (referral only)
Financial planning	✓		✓
Relocation activities	✓		✓
Emergency Shelter	✓		✓
Co-located staff trained on Domestic Abuse issues	✓		✓

* When State General funds are used, these services may be provided if they are part of a treatment *plan*, not as a *stand-alone* service.