

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

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

May 13, 2008

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: FINAL REPORT TO LEGISLATURE ON AB 1808 COUNTY PLAN ADDENDUM STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING THE WORK PARTICIPATION RATE STRATEGY SUMMARY SURVEY

This letter transmits the Senate Bill (SB) 84 (Chapter 177, Section 19, Statutes of 2007) strategy summary survey form and directions for submitting information for the Final Report to the Legislature.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1808 (Chapter 75, Statutes of 2006) enacted the Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10534, which required counties to review their existing California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Plan and submit an addendum to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) detailing how the county will meet specified goals, taking into consideration the work participation requirements of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Reauthorization. In accordance with SB 84, CDSS prepared a written update to provide the Legislature with information gathered in January, 2008, regarding strategies counties included in their AB 1808 addenda. The update is currently in review. As soon as it is received by the Legislature, a copy will be sent to you.

SB 84 required counties to report on strategies that are designed for up-front engagement and sanction reengagement. The statute also required counties to report on the characteristics of their time-limited (Safety Net) populations. Therefore, CDSS has also asked that counties report on any strategies they have implemented to engage Safety Net families in welfare-to-work activities in an effort to better inform the Legislature of counties' efforts to help families who have exhausted their 60-month time limit on aid.

As a follow-up to the written update, CDSS will submit a thorough report of results of the counties' efforts at developing and implementing their strategies contained in their county plan addenda. The final report will be submitted to the Legislature on September 1, 2008. CDSS will prepare the final report using information received through the enclosed survey. Information is due to CDSS on June 13, 2008 describing how the strategies have impacted WPR, and the characteristics of their Safety Net population. If there has not been any progress or new data to report since January, it is not necessary to resubmit the survey; however, please let us know via email at Ryan.Fruchtenicht@dss.ca.gov.

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Enclosed are the survey and instructions. In addition and for counties' convenience, the survey will be sent electronically to counties upon release of this letter.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact your CDSS Employment Bureau county liaison at (916) 654-2137.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

CHARR LEE METSKER
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

Enclosures

c: CWDA

AB 1808 County Plan Addenda Strategies Summary Survey

County:

Completed By:

Phone number/email:

Upfront Strategies – Please update the information you provided in your previous submission. If possible, please include quantitative results from the strategy.

Strategy name:

Implementation information:

Quantitative/qualitative results due to implementation of the strategy; include the percentage of change in the county's WPR (if known):

Additional Up-front Strategies – If there are any other up-front strategies you would like to report that you did not mention in your first submission, please do so below. If possible, please include quantitative results from the strategy.

Strategy name:

Implementation information:

Quantitative/qualitative results due to implementation of the strategy; include the percentage of change in the county's WPR (if known):

Sanction Reengagement Strategies – Please update the information you provided in your previous submission. If possible, please include quantitative results from the strategy.

Strategy name:

Implementation information:

Quantitative and qualitative results due to implementation of the strategy; include the percentage of change in the county's WPR (if known):

Additional Sanction Reengagement Strategies – If there are any other sanction reengagement strategies you would like to report that you did not mention in your first submission, please do so below. If possible, please include quantitative results from the strategy.

Strategy name:

Implementation information:

Quantitative/qualitative results due to implementation of the strategy; include the percentage of change in the county's WPR (if known):

Strategies to Engage Safety Net Families – Please update the information you provided in your previous submission. If possible, please include quantitative results from the strategy.

Strategy name:

Implementation information:

Quantitative/qualitative results due to implementation of the strategy; include the percentage of change in the county's WPR (if known):

Additional Strategies to Engage Safety Net Families – If there are any other Safety Net strategies you would like to report that you did not mention in your first submission, please do so below. If possible, please include quantitative results from the strategy.

Strategy name:

Implementation information:

Quantitative/qualitative results due to implementation of the strategy; include the percentage of change in the county's WPR (if known):

Characteristics of Safety Net Cases – Please provide information on any demographic characteristics of your county's Safety Net population. Add more bullets as needed.

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Directions: AB 1808 County Plan Addenda Strategies Summary Survey

Senate Bill 84 (Chapter 177, Statutes of 2007) requires that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) follow up with counties regarding the implementation and results of their AB 1808 County Plan Addenda strategies and report back to the Legislature. Senate Bill 84 also requests that CDSS report on the characteristics of Safety Net families.

CDSS asks that you please take the time to review your county's strategies for up-front engagement, sanction reengagement, and Safety Net families to determine which strategies are directly leading to an increase in your county's work participation rate (WPR). In addition, CDSS asks that you include information about the characteristics of your Safety Net caseload with this submission.

Please follow the steps below to provide information to CDSS for the aforementioned strategy types. Please submit as much information as possible on or before the **June 13, 2008** due date.

Strategies Summary Form:

Step 1: The Strategies Summary Form contains categories for up-front engagement, sanction reengagement, and Safety Net families. At the top of the form please complete the following information:

- a) Enter your county's name
- b) Enter your name
- c) Enter your contact information

The purpose of this information is to contact you directly should CDSS need clarification regarding your response.

Step 2: Please enter a name (in **bold type**) for and a brief description of the strategy next to the "Strategy Name:" lines. The form has two separate sections to enter information about strategies from the three strategy categories: up-front engagement, sanction reengagement, and Safety Net families. The first section for each category is for strategies your county mentioned in the first submission you sent in January 2008. The second section for each category is for any additional strategies that you did not include in your first submission, but would like to report now. CDSS has included space for one strategy in each section for each strategy category. Some strategies may apply to more than one group of clients (e.g., up-front, sanction, or Safety Net). If this is the case, please indicate this in your description.

If your county identifies more than one strategy in each section that you consider promising practices, you can add sections by highlighting and copying the following on the form in the appropriate section:

Strategy Name:

Implementation information:

Results toward increasing the WPR:

Step 3: For each identified strategy please use the following questions as a guideline and write your answers in the space provided below the “Implementation information:” section. For strategies you reported on in your first submission, only include new information regarding implementation that you did not include in your first submission. If there has not been any progress or new data to report since January, it is not necessary to resubmit the survey; however, please let us know via email at Ryan.Fruchtenicht@dss.ca.gov.

1. Were there any barriers to implementing this strategy? If so, how were they dealt with?
2. What went smoothly, or exceeded expectations, during the implementation of this strategy?
3. What were the costs associated with implementing this strategy?
4. Would you recommend this strategy to other counties as a promising/best practice?
5. Please list any lessons learned while implementing the strategy.

Step 4: For each identified strategy, please use the following questions as a guideline and write your answers in the space provided below the “Quantitative/qualitative results due to implementation of the strategy; include the percentage of change in the county’s WPR (if known):” section. For strategies you reported on in your first submission, only include new quantitative data/qualitative information showing results from the implementation of the strategy that you did not include in your first submission. Please be sure to include the percentage of change in the county’s WPR (if known). If there has not been any progress or new data to report since January, it is not necessary to resubmit the survey; however, please let us know via email at Ryan.Fruchtenicht@dss.ca.gov.

1. Has the strategy had the intended effect?
2. Do you have data about the results of the strategy to share? If yes, please include with the report and report on the aggregated results (e.g., “Yes, we have a Sanction Reengagement Report and last month we cured five percent of our sanctions”; or “Our sanctions have decreased by 13 percent since the implementation of this strategy, leaving us with a 12 percent sanction rate.”)?
3. Do you have any anecdotal information regarding this strategy that may not be expressed as data that you would like to share, such as feedback from employees or clients, increase/decrease in morale for employees and clients, and/or general positive/negative outcomes?

Step 5: For characteristics of Safety Net cases, examples of demographic data may include, but are not limited to, the following: What percentage of the cases are one-parent cases? What percentage are two-parent cases? What percentage of the caseload has an adult that is employed? On average how many children are in the household? What are the ages of the children? What ethnicities and non-English languages are represented? And so on.

Step 6: Please use the following naming convention to save the Strategies Summary form for submission to CDSS:

County.SB 84.6.1.08.doc (e.g., Alameda.SB 84.6.1.08.doc).

Step 7: Please submit the county’s Strategies Summary form to your county liaison at CDSS. Please call Ryan Fruchtenicht at (916) 651-9958 if you have any questions.