



CDSS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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GOVERNOR

May 2, 2016

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

FROM: TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UPCOMING SENATE BILL (SB) 1041 PROGRAM EVALUATION SURVEY

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SB 1041 made significant changes to the CalWORKs program, including the creation of the Welfare-to-Work 24-Month Time Clock. The California legislature required an independent evaluation of the SB 1041 reforms which is being conducted by the RAND Corporation, in partnership with the American Institutes for Research (AIR). The legislatively mandated evaluation, which began in July 2014, focuses on SB 1041 implementation and the resulting changes to the CalWORKs program at the state and county levels, and the impact on recipients and caseworkers. The SB 1041 Program Evaluation includes five components, including a survey of all county welfare directors known as the All County Survey.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) along with RAND requests that all county welfare directors participate in this second round of the All County Survey. The survey will be administered annually for three years to all 58 county welfare directors. The first round of the survey was completed in the summer of 2015, and thanks to the hard work and dedication of county welfare directors, achieved a 100 percent response rate. The survey focus will vary from year to year, so this year's version will be different than the previous version. The purpose of the survey is to document how counties have implemented the SB1041 reforms to CalWORKs and how the operation of your county CalWORKs program has changed as a result of SB 1041.

What to Expect and How the Survey Will Work

You will receive an email from the RAND/AIR team with a link and password to the on-line survey in mid-May. The amount of time needed to complete the survey will vary

depending on the size and complexity of your CalWORKs program. When you receive the email with the survey link, you will also receive an electronic copy of the survey.

The RAND Corporation and AIR recommend that you use the electronic copy to complete this survey together with colleagues who are responsible for case management, employment and training services, and participant outreach and communication, because many of the questions pertain to these specific program functions and activities.

For Questions and Concerns

Your confidential input about the development and implementation of SB 1041 is an important component of the evaluation. We very much appreciate you and/or your designee's participation in the All County Survey to share your knowledge and provide valuable first-hand experience associated with SB 1041.

If you have any questions or would like to further discuss the SB 1041 Program Evaluation, or the All County Survey, please contact:

Michael Billingsley, Analyst, CalWORKs Employment Bureau at (916) 653-7264 or
Kären Dickerson, Chief, Employment and Eligibility Branch, at (916) 651-6562.

If you would like to speak to the research organizations, please contact
Cheryl Graczewski, Senior Researcher at AIR, AllCountySurvey@air.org;
(650) 843-8238.