



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

July 14, 2015

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-61-15

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CALWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY CALFRESH SPECIALISTS  
ALL CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES  
ALL COUNTY EBT PROJECT MANAGERS  
ALL TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS  
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE PROGRAM COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: 2015 CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO  
KIDS (CalWORKs) AND REFUGEE PROGRAMS TRAINING ACADEMY

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

You are invited to attend the 2015 CalWORKs and Refugee Programs Training Academy, which will be held on December 8 - 10, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Garden Grove, California. The CalWORKs Training Academy is joining with Refugee Programs to bring you an expanded Training Academy this year. In the spirit of this collaborative approach, this year's Training Academy theme is, *"Together Towards Tomorrow."*

This year's Training Academy will offer a comprehensive assortment of workshops designed to assist your County Welfare Department in providing services and supports to California's families and refugee populations in need. The Academy will include workshops that will strengthen attendees' knowledge of program fundamentals, recent program changes, and program best practices. The 2015 Training Academy will also offer the opportunity for attendees to participate in a number of skill building workshops tailored for the social service professional.

Some *potential* workshop topics include, but are not limited to:

- Using recent program enhancements to effectively connect clients to services (e.g., Online CalWORKs Appraisal Tool (OCAT), Family Stabilization (FS) Program, and Enhanced Subsidized Employment (ESE)).
- Addressing housing barriers (e.g., Housing Support Program (HSP) and affordable housing for refugee populations).
- Strategies for improving program performance and work participation.

- Partnering with California Community Colleges and other education resources for student success.
- Best practices for refugee resettlement in California.
- An overview of refugee program eligibility and best practices for accessing refugee benefits and services.
- Overview of the Trafficking and Crime Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP).
- Strengthening families through relationship education.
- Using motivational interviewing to achieve client engagement.
- Other skill building workshops focused on mentoring, coaching, and building a service culture.

Training Academy attendees will include federal, state, and local human service and workforce development practitioners and administrators, community colleges, trainers, and economic development specialists who provide services to CalWORKs recipients, other low-income families, and refugees throughout California. We anticipate another successful event this year and encourage **early registration**. A save the date for the Training Academy is available online at: <http://www.cce.csus.edu/calworks-refugee>. This site will also include information on Training Academy schedules, hotels, and on-line registration, once available.

Come join your colleagues for this wonderful opportunity to exchange unique perspectives about the changing CalWORKs and Refugee programs environment and share new ideas about how to improve the effectiveness of both programs. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Elisabeth Nobriga (CalWORKs) at (916) 651-2048/[Elisabeth.Nobriga@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Elisabeth.Nobriga@dss.ca.gov), or Nazia Ali-Prasad (Refugee Programs) at (916) 657-3815/[Nazia.Ali-Prasad@dss.ca.gov](mailto:Nazia.Ali-Prasad@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

KÄREN DICKERSON, Chief  
CalWORKs Employment and Eligibility  
Branch

KIMBERLEY JOHNSON, Chief  
Child Care and Refugee Programs  
Branch