STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • *www.cdss.ca.gov*

CDSS
JOHN A. WAGNER
DIRECTOR

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

April 6, 2010

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO: I-22-10

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CalWORKs: REVISED CW 2166 WORK PAYS NOTICE

REFERENCE: ASSEMBLY BILL 1835 (CHAPTER 230, STATUTES OF 2006), CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE SECTION 1182.12, MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) SECTION 21-115.2

This letter is to provide a revised version of the CW 2166 Work Pays Notice for County Welfare Department (CWD) use. The CW 2166 shows the value of working while on cash aid to California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) clients. The reverse side of the CW 2166 provides information on supportive services such as child care, transportation, job retention services, health care, and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). There is also information on federal and state time-on-aid limits. The CWDs are encouraged to begin using the revised form as soon as possible.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

The calculations in the “example of how work pays” section have been updated using the current California minimum wage ($8.00 per hour) and new Maximum Aid Payment levels. The “job retention services section” on the back of the form was revised to clarify the period that those services are available after leaving the CalWORKs program. The section on the EITC has been expanded to include information on Advance EITC, receiving the EITC for prior tax years, and locating free help in filing a return. The “State 18 and 24-Month Time Limits” section has been deleted from the form as they no longer apply to CalWORKs clients.

CAMERA-READY COPIES AND TRANSLATIONS

For a camera-ready copy in English, contact the Forms Management Unit at fmudss@dss.ca.gov. This form is available from the CDSS Website at: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/English/CW2166.PDF. When all translations are completed per MPP Section 21-115.2, they are posted on an ongoing basis on our web site.

Copies of the translated forms and publications can be obtained at: http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_274.htm. For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651-8876. The revised version of these forms will be placed on the internet and will be available immediately.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your county CalWORKs consultant or the main number for the CalWORKs Eligibility Bureau at (916) 654-1322.

Sincerely,

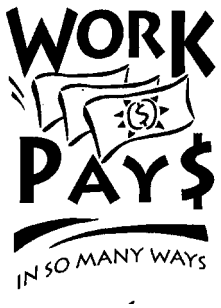
Original Document Signed By:

Kären Dickerson, Chief
Employment and Eligibility Branch

c: CSAC

Attachment

WORK REALLY PAYS! HERE'S HOW:



You can work and still get CalWORKs cash aid as long as you remain eligible. When you add the amount of your earnings to your cash aid, you will have more $$$ for your family. Work also:

- **Builds a better life for you and your family.**
- **Builds your self-esteem.**
- **Develops your job skills, and helps you get a better job.**
- **Gives you personal satisfaction.**

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW WORK PAYS FOR MARY AND HER TWO CHILDREN (REGION 1):

Step 1 **We figure Mary's weekly gross earnings:**
$8.00 x 32 hours = $256 Weekly Earnings

Step 2 **We figure Mary's monthly gross earnings:**
$256 x 4.33 weeks = $1108.48 Monthly Gross Earnings

Step 3 **We figure Mary's monthly countable earnings:**

Mary's Monthly Gross Earnings	$	1108.48
Less $225 deduction	-	225.00
Balance	$	883.48
Less 50% (half) deduction	-	441.74
($883.48 ÷ 2 = $441.74)		
Equals Countable Earnings	$	441.00*

Step 4 **We figure Mary's cash grant:**

Non-exempt Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) for 3 (Region 1)	$	694.00
Less Mary's Countable Earnings	-	441.00 *
Equals Cash Grant	$	253.00

Step 5 **We figure Mary's total monthly income:**

Monthly Gross Earnings	$	1108.00*
Plus Cash Grant	+	253.00
Equals Total Gross Income	$	1,361.00

FIGURE YOUR EARNINGS AND CASH AID:

Step 1 **Figure your weekly gross earnings:**
Your hourly wage $_____ x your weekly hours of work_____ = your Weekly Gross Earnings $_____.

Step 2 **Figure your monthly gross earnings:**
Your Weekly Gross Earnings $_____ x 4.33 weeks = your Monthly Gross Earnings $_____.

Step 3 **Figure your monthly countable earnings:**

Your Monthly Gross Earnings (from Step 2)	$	
Less $225 deduction	-	225.00
Balance	$	
Less 50% (half) of balance	-	
Equals Countable Earnings	$	

Step 4 **Figure your cash grant:**

Non-exempt Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) for a family your size	$	
Less your Countable Earnings (from step 3)	-	
Equals Cash Grant	$	

Step 5 **Figure your total monthly income:**

Monthly Gross Earnings (from step 2)	$	
Plus Cash Grant (from step 4)	+	
Equals Total Gross Income	$	

* **Countable income is rounded down to whole dollar amounts.**

- **For a translation of this notice, ask your worker.**

若需本通知的翻譯本，請和你的工作員聯絡。
(Chinese)

Si no puede leer este documento, pídale ayuda a su trabajador.
(Spanish)

Для перевода этого извещения обратитесь к работнику.
(Russian)

Để có bản dịch của thông báo này, xin liên lạc với nhân viên phụ trách hồ sơ của quý vị.
(Vietnamese)

TURN PAGE OVER FOR FACTS ABOUT OTHER BENEFITS YOU CAN GET FROM WORKING

WORK PAYS IN SO MANY OTHER WAYS, TOO!

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

While in CalWORKs, you and the county will agree on certain goals and program activities to help you get a job and support your family without cash aid. To help you take part in these program activities, the county will provide supportive services for transportation, child care, ancillary costs, and counseling services to help with the transition to work.

CHILD CARE

You may have part or all of your child care paid. You can get paid child care while you look for a job, work, or take part in other approved CalWORKs activities, such as training or county orientation meetings. Your child care will be paid to the eligible child care provider that you choose.

If you are working or taking part in a county approved activity, you can get paid child care for the entire time you are on cash aid. After you go off cash aid, you can continue to get child care for up to 24 months.

After you have received 24 months of child care, you may continue to get child care if funding is available and your family remains eligible. The county or the local Alternative Payment Program agency will help you to find additional services.

JOB RETENTION SERVICES

Some counties provide job retention services for eligible former recipients as part of the CalWORKs program. Job retention services can be case management or other services that help you keep a job or get a better job. Ask your worker what services may be available in your county. Months you get job retention services do not count against the California 60-month time limit, and do not count against the Federal limit as long as you are employed.

You may get job retention services for up to 12 months IF:

- You received a CalWORKs cash grant AND
- You went off cash aid because you got a job OR
- You went off cash aid and you got a job within 12 months.

You can get these services for up to 24 months from the time you stopped getting a CalWORKs cash grant because of earnings from a job.

HEALTH COVERAGE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Your health coverage may continue when your CalWORKs cash aid stops.

- Depending on the reason your cash aid stops, you and your child(ren) may be eligible for continued no-cost or low-cost health coverage under the Medi-Cal or Healthy Families programs.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

The federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a special tax break for people who work full or part time. This means extra cash in your pocket. Claiming your EITC is easy. Just file your tax return form 1040 or 1040A and Schedule EIC. You can still get an EITC refund even if you do not owe any income tax. Eligible workers with children can get Advance EITC in their paycheck by obtaining a W-5 form from your employer or, by calling 1-800-829-3676.

The EITC refund is not counted as income when your CalWORKs cash grant, food stamps, or Medi-Cal benefits are figured.

You can go back three years if you filed your income tax but did not claim your EITC, by submitting an amended income tax return. There is no late penalty if you do not owe income tax in the prior years.

You can get free tax help from Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. For a VITA site near you, or other tax information, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Federal and State 60-Month Time limits

As of January 1, 1998, a parent or caretaker relative can only get CalWORKs cash aid for up to a lifetime total of 60 months. Cash aid received from CalWORKs and/or from any other state counts toward the 60-month limit.

- There are exceptions to the 60-month time limit rule. These exceptions allow aid to continue past the time limit, or stop a month of aid from counting toward the time limit. Some of these exceptions are:
  - The limit does not apply to children.
  - A month on cash aid does not count toward the 60-month time limit when the person is:
    - ✔ Age 60 or older.
    - ✔ Exempt from taking part in Welfare-to-Work activities for certain reasons.
    - ✔ Disabled for 30 days or more.
    - ✔ And other reasons your worker can tell you.
- Other states may have different rules for the 60-month time limit.