

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



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February 6, 1986

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 1-12-86

To: All County Welfare Directors
All County GAIN Program Coordinators

Subject: Update on GAIN Activities #2

This is to provide an update on State Department of Social Services' (SDSS) activities relating to the implementation of the Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) program.

Our survey of county welfare departments determined that twenty-six counties have indicated an intent to implement the GAIN program on or before July 1, 1986. The Department will provide any assistance within its available resources to assist counties in meeting proposed implementation dates. In accordance with the timeframe developed with the County Welfare Directors' Association (CWDA) during the regulation development process, the SDSS will respond within 90 days to a county plan submittal. In order to thoroughly evaluate each plan, multiple units within the Department, as well as the Department of Education and Employment Development Department, will be participating in the review process.

In recognition of the difficulty and complexity of county plan preparation, and in order to facilitate prompt review and approval, the Department is currently preparing planning guidelines and a plan format for county use. Draft format and guidelines will be shared with the CWDA GAIN committee in early February with an anticipated final release date of February 24, 1986. This information will include a description of the Department's plan review and approval process, recommended procedures to be followed in the development of county plans and a format for submitting a proposed budget for GAIN operations.

The Department is in the process of developing a GAIN program newsletter in order to keep counties and other interested parties regularly informed of major issues and program development activities. Pending development of the newsletter format, periodic information updates will continue to be provided through the ACIN process. Several major program development milestones have recently been completed. In summary, they are as follows:

1. Emergency Regulations. Emergency regulations were completed and filed with the Office of Administrative Law on January 14, 1986; these regulations went into effect on January 23, 1986. Public hearings on these regulations will be held during the week of March 17, 1986. The Department appreciates the valuable assistance received from county staff in developing these regulations.
2. County Planning Allocations. Program planning allocations for counties who submitted funding requests have been completed. Allocation letters were sent to counties on January 10, 1986. These allocations are related to the cost of Fiscal Year 1985/86 planning only; they do not include implementation or on-going operational costs which should be addressed in the budget sections of county GAIN plans. The allocations include both in-house county costs for planning and planning activities conducted under county initiated contracts.
3. GAIN Evaluation. A contract for a detailed GAIN program evaluation has been executed with the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC). Under this contract, the actual evaluation design, including required data elements and participant tracking procedures, will be developed in conjunction with CWDA and other interested groups by June 30, 1986. We will work very closely with the counties in the development of the evaluation design.
4. Marketing Request for Proposal (RFP). An RFP to develop a marketing campaign for the GAIN program was released in late December. This campaign will be designed to provide information on the program to service providers, employers, potential program participants, and the general public. A bidder's conference was held on January 15, 1986. The marketing effort will include statewide and local campaigns to provide information about the program and to encourage participation. It is anticipated that these activities will begin in early April.

In addition to the items noted above, the following most significant activities are also under way:

1. Waivers - We continue to work with the Department of Health and Human Services on the review and approval of waiver requests. A response to our request is expected during the next few weeks.
2. Participant Contracts - GAIN Bureau and legal staff are developing the standardized GAIN participant contract. A draft will be shared with CWDA as soon as possible.
3. Third Party Arbitration of Assessments - Policy and standards for third party arbitration are being developed. Proposals will be shared with CWDA.

4. Day Care Coordination - We are continuing to work closely with the Department of Education in the development of additional day care resources and the enhancement of Federal participation in day care funding.

Any questions or comments should be addressed to the GAIN Implementation Bureau at (916) 324-6962.

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cc: CWDA