

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 4, 1995

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-37-95

TO: ALL-COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL-COUNTY GAIN COORDINATORS

<u>Reason for this Transmittal</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Law Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Law or Regulation Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Court Order
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

This notice transmits a copy of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), regarding the Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) program and HUD's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program.

The MOU facilitates increased coordination between GAIN and the FSS program at the state and local levels. Of particular relevance to the counties, county welfare departments (CWDs) and local housing authorities (LHAs) may enter into agreements to formalize their coordination of services to clients who are in both programs. The increased coordination and access to additional resources will contribute towards the programs attaining their mutual goal of assisting program participants to become permanently independent of all public assistance.

We have received letters in support of this MOU from the County Welfare Directors Association and several LHAs. While entering into an MOU at the local level is voluntary, we support such efforts being made. Therefore, we encourage CWDs to meet with the LHA in their respective county and establish a collaborative approach to better meet the needs of their GAIN and FSS participants.

Counties entering into MOUs are requested to send a copy of the signed document to their Employment Operations Analyst at the following address:

Employment Operations Section
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, M.S. 6-136
Sacramento, CA 95814

We also would like to inform counties that the City of Redding Housing Authority and the Shasta County Social Services and Benefits Administration will be making a presentation on the partnership between their FSS and GAIN programs at the seventh annual Partnership for GAIN Conference, to be held in Los Angeles from November 1-3, 1995.

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If you have any questions or need further information regarding this matter, please contact your Employment Operations Analyst at (916) 657-3403.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Wagstaff".

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Acting Deputy Director
Welfare Programs Division

Enclosure

c: Bill Armstead

*MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT*

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a formal agreement between the California Department of Social Services and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Public and Indian Housing. This MOU will establish a clear definition of the services to be provided by the State's Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) program and the HUD Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. The client group who will be eligible under this MOU will be individuals who are participants in both programs.

The GAIN program was established by the State of California in 1985 and is a successful program in placing recipients of public assistance into the workforce. The purpose of the GAIN program is to teach, train, counsel and help participants become self-supporting through immediate employment. The GAIN program provides important services to participants such as work experience, education and training. Over the life of GAIN, more than 624,000 Californians have participated in the program. As a result, there have been approximately 259,000 employment placements. Unless exempt or deferred, all recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children must participate in GAIN.

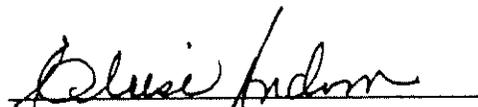
FSS was developed by HUD in 1991. Within HUD's portfolio of assisted housing programs, FSS stands alone as the premier vehicle of moving people from dependency on state and federal public assistance with a myriad of supportive services with the goal of enabling the participant to become independent of all public assistance. Approximately five percent of seven million Californians receiving rental assistance are enrolled in the FSS program. Before an applicant is accepted into the program, he or she is screened to determine motivation, employment potential, educational background and other qualifying criteria. Upon acceptance into the program, the individual must enter into a contract of participation between the participant and the sponsoring housing authority. The contract confirms the participant's commitment to follow his or her personal development plan toward self-sufficiency and the housing authority's responsibility to provide the supportive services necessary to achieve the participant's goal. The contract can be written for up to five years. The housing authority provides ongoing case management to each participant which includes regular review and updates to ensure progress.

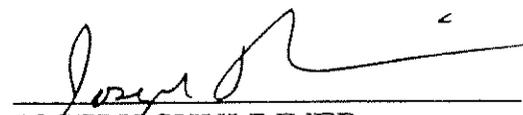
The GAIN program provides valuable supportive services which benefit FSS participants substantially, such as child care, transportation and ancillary expenses. The services provided by the FSS program to GAIN eligible FSS participants include: rental assistance, on-going case management for participants in both programs, and access to a FSS escrow account. By combining the resources from each program, both the GAIN and FSS programs are enhanced. The continuation of services for GAIN participants who are also FSS participants will assist those individuals accomplish permanent independence from all public assistance. This is the ultimate goal of both agencies.

This MOU, once signed, will assure that, to the extent possible within existing law and regulations, those persons participating in both the FSS and GAIN programs concurrently will be granted the benefits to which they are entitled under both programs for the duration of their eligibility for and participation in both programs.

Procedures of implementation of the MOU will be undertaken by each local public housing authority and the appropriate county GAIN agency.

Either party, the California Department of Social Services or HUD, may terminate this Agreement by giving 30 days written notice to the other party.


ELOISE ANDERSON
Director
California Department of
Social Services


JOSEPH SHULDINER
Assistant Secretary
Public and Indian Housing, U.S.
Department of Housing & Urban
Development