

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Assembly Bill (AB) 1808, Chapter 75, Statutes of 2006, amends the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Welfare-to-Work Program. The CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work Program is the employment and training component of CalWORKs, California's version of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.

Federal welfare reform enacted the TANF program through the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) in 1996, limiting cash aid to a family with an adult to a total of five years. The intent of the Welfare-to-Work program is to provide employment and training services to the maximum possible number of the adult CalWORKs population to aid them in achieving economic self-sufficiency within this time frame.

To further achieve this goal, the proposed regulations repeal minimum sanction periods and, instead, would allow an individual that has received a financial sanction due to an instance of noncompliance without good cause to terminate the sanction at any point. This would give more participants the opportunity to cure their sanction earlier and begin participating in Welfare-to-Work activities, which may help increase California's work participation rate. The sanction will end if the noncomplying participant performs the activity or activities that he or she previously refused to perform. An individual may contact the county and request to cure his or her sanction without having to wait a minimum sanction period as previously required. Further, the proposed regulations modify the regulation on vouchers and vendor payments to eliminate a reference to durational sanctions, which were made obsolete by AB 1808, Section 29.3.

AB 1808 also amends Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10534 to require counties to submit a county plan addendum once every three years.

Additionally, the proposed regulations will make other technical, conforming changes, such as renumbering of sections and amending cross references as necessary.

These regulations were considered at the Department's public hearing held on August 13, 2008. There was no oral testimony presented. Written testimony was received from Mr. Bill Taylor, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Los Angeles County, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS); and Staff Attorney, Nu Usaha, Western Center on Law and Poverty.

As a result of testimony and at the Department's discretion, the following changes to the regulations have been made:

Section 42-721.481 is amended for clarity purposes and includes additional county requirements for sending supplemental payment to individuals if their activity is completed after the first of the month following the date of the request to cure their sanction. The supplemental payment will be retroactive to the first of the month following the date of the request to cure the sanction, once the sanction has been cured.

Section 44-303.34 and Section 44-307-12 are amended to clarify the population referred to in the regulations and to incorporate the requirements for counties to issue vendor and voucher payments for at least rent and utilities, which is consistent with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11453.2.

Section 44-318.13(QR) is amended to reflect corrected information regarding the beginning date of aid for sanctioned individuals being added back to the Assistance Unit (AU). The beginning date of aid shall be the first of the month following the date the individual requested to cure the sanction and the individual has completed curing the sanction.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.8, a 15-Day renounce and complete text of modifications made to the regulations were made available to the public from December 2nd to December 17, 2008. No oral or written testimony was received.