

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Senate Bill (SB) 72 amends the CalWORKs Welfare to Work (WTW) program. The CalWORKs WTW 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 federally funded cash aid to a family with an adult to a total of five years. The intent of the WTW 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.

Assembly Bill (AB) 106 as well as SB 72 impacted the CalWORKs program significantly. AB 106 continued the approximate reduction of \$376 million to the CalWORKs single allocation in the 2011-12 fiscal year, and SB 72 extended statutory changes which affect funding and exemptions in the CalWORKs program. In crafting SB 72, the Legislature still allowed for more effective utilization of limited resources for CalWORKs services and provides counties additional flexibility to address funding constraints.

In order to achieve these goals, the proposed regulations extended the two temporary CalWORKs exemptions for young children and reduced the number of months in which an aided adult in the Assistance Unit (AU) receive CalWORKs benefits to 48 months.

The proposed regulations also extend the two CalWORKs exemptions that were set forth in 2009 by AB X4 4 (Chapter 4, Statutes of the Fourth Extraordinary Session of 2009) for one additional year. These exemptions apply to clients who are caring for young children and to clients who may be granted good cause from WTW participation due to a lack of supportive services. Clients who receive the exemption for young children will not be required to participate in WTW activities and will have their CalWORKs time clock stopped until they no longer meet these criteria, or until July 1, 2012, whichever comes first. Clients who are granted good cause from WTW participation due to a lack of supportive services will also have their CalWORKs time clock stopped until they no longer meet these criteria, or until July 1, 2012, whichever comes first.

The proposed regulations are consistent and compatible with existing regulations. These regulations simply extend the inoperable date of the provisions already put in place by regulations adopted in December 2010 under OAL File No. 2010-1115-01C.

PRWORA limited the number of months that a family could be aided by TANF to 60 months. CalWORKs previously imposed a 60-month time limit on the number of months an adult in the AU could receive benefits, unless otherwise exempt from the time limit.

SB 72 and AB 106 reduced the number of months in which an aided adult in the AU can receive CalWORKs benefits to 48 months including TANF months of aid received from other states after January 1, 1998, unless otherwise exempt from the time limit due to the reasons listed under MPP Sections 42-302.11 - .12 and 42-302.21.

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

The benefit of the regulatory action to the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment is that it allows counties more effective utilization of limited resources for CalWORKs program services and provides counties additional flexibility to address funding constraints due to the continued reduction to the CalWORKs single allocation.

The CDSS renoticed these regulations because changes requiring renote were made to the regulations following the public hearing. No comment was received from November 2, 2012 to November 17, 2012, as a result of this 15-day notice