

SPRINGING FORWARD

MARCH 2013



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CASELOAD TRENDS AND DEMOGRAPHICS	2
CALWORKS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES OPERATIONS	4
EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION CENTER	6
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES	8
REFUGEE PROGRAM	9
SAFETY NET	10
APPENDIX	12

CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC

Following years of budget deficits, program cuts and dramatic policy revisions, it appears that the state’s most vulnerable populations can finally breathe a sigh of relief. In January, when Governor Brown released the proposed State Budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year, surprisingly, his proposal did not include any major policy changes or budget reductions to California’s Health and Human Services programs.

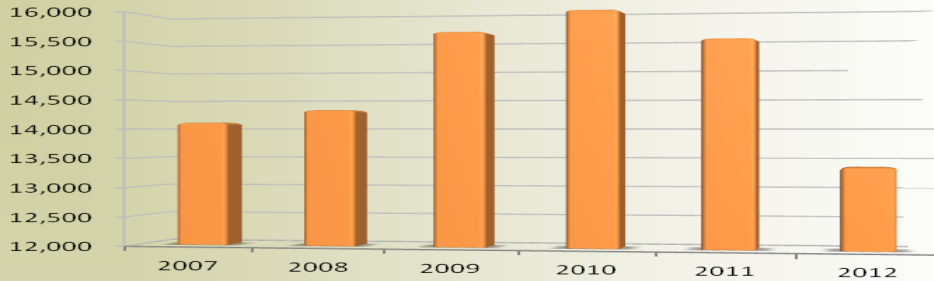
Governor Brown’s budget represents a step in the right direction for the CalWORKs program. After suffering from repeated budget slashing and reduced services, the proposal stabilizes CalWORKs Program at funding levels that preserve programs. This is welcome news as Counties continue to implement significant policy changes in Welfare-to-Work participation stemming from last year’s legislation, Senate Bill 1041*. As proposed, administrative budgets will experience a boost to address the added cost of this year’s legislative changes, however, the proposal has yet to restore benefit grant amounts for CalWORKs families.

While there appears to be some “wrinkles” in this budget, the issues pale in comparison to the cuts and immense program policy changes that Social Services programs have undergone in recent years. With the state’s financial crunch finally showing some signs of improvement, we remain cautiously optimistic for our CalWORKs families.

* For more information on SB1041 read “CalWORKs Employment Services Operations” on page 4.

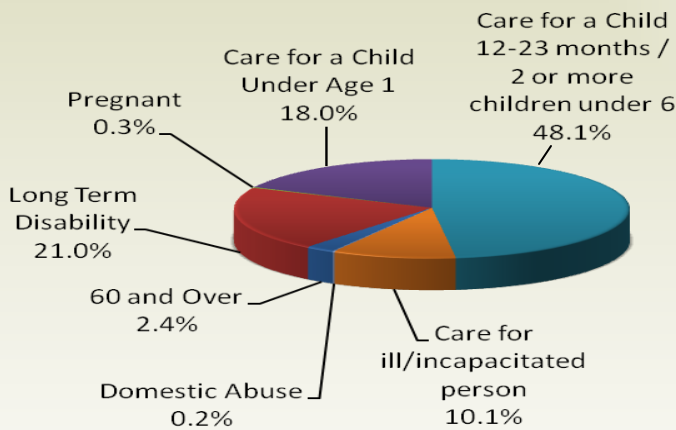
CalWORKs Caseload Trends and Demographics

Due in large part to a rebounding local economy and state legislative changes, the Santa Clara County CalWORKs population has shrunk by 21% since peaking in 2010. There is currently **13,372 active cases**.



The majority of these cases, over 7,000, are receiving “Child-Only” grants, in which a child is the only person eligible to receive aid. The remaining cases are required to enroll with CalWORKs Employment Services, which currently serves **6,035 participants** (or 5037 families).

Exemptions



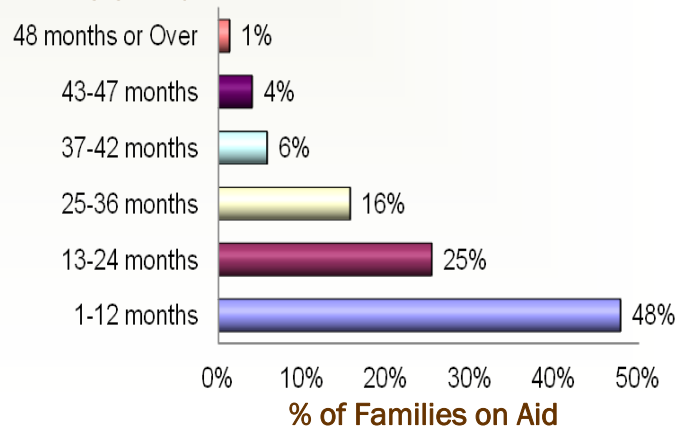
As a condition of receiving cash aid, families are required to enroll in Welfare-to-Work employment activities. The state currently recognizes 13 exceptions which excuse families from participating. The largest category is the “Young Child” exemption, which makes up 48% of the population. Beginning in January 2013, the Young Child exemption was replaced by a new exemption that only applies to families caring for a child under 23 months. For more info on the new exemption see pg 4.

Time On Aid

CalWORKs families are time limited to a lifetime maximum of 48 months on aid. In Santa Clara County, less than 1% of families reach the 48-month maximum.

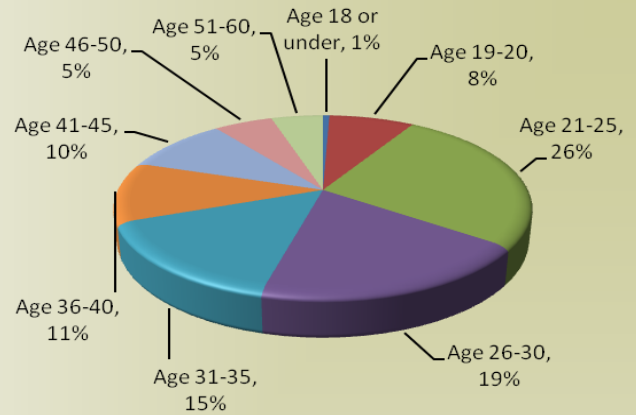
As illustrated on the chart to the right, nearly three quarters of all families on aid have been active for less than 24-months.

Time on Aid

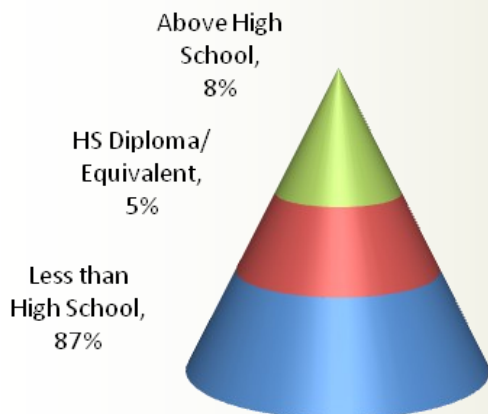


Age

The chart on the right represents the age distribution of the CalWORKs Employment Services population. As indicated, the average age of CalWORKs participants is in the 21-25 year-old category. This portion of the population has grown in the past several years revealing a shift toward younger participants, generally in their early 20's.



Education



Education is the single largest employment barrier facing CalWORKs families. Only 13% of those entering the program have finished high school. Employment Services encourages upward mobility for these families by partnering with the area's Adult Education and Community Colleges to offer a vast array of educational and vocational training programs. For many, this is the opportunity that families need to gain long-term self-sufficiency.

Activities

Families participating in Employment Services develop employment plans that consist of a wide variety of work activities designed to increase their employability. Each plan is tailored to suit their employment goals and may include a combination of activities in order to meet hourly participation requirements.

An increasing number of families, thirty-eight percent (38%), are working, generally coupled with another activity (either education, training or job search).

Employment Activity	
• Employment	38%
• Education or Training	23%
• Appraisal and Assessment	21%
• Job Readiness/Search	11%
• Work Experience or Community Service	5%
• Mental Health Services	2%

CalWORKs Employment Services Operations



CalWORKs Employment Services (CWES) Operations staff work to develop and sustain our families' engagement in Welfare to Work activities, ensuring clients meet their required hours and receive needed support on their path to self-sufficiency.

With the influx of new regulations stemming from the SB1041 legislation, the Operations team has become a firestorm of activity to meet these new state mandates while continuing to provide assistance to new applicants in Intake, develop initial employment plans and provide case management to over 6,000 participants.

Taking Action

Together with the CalWORKs Advisory members, a comprehensive action plan was devised to accomplish the implementation of SB1041; that included client notification and trainings for both community partners and staff. This mandate requires that case managers have a “meaningful conversation” with all active Employment Services clients; reviewing their progress and discussing possible changes and consequences to changes in plans. State regulations prescribe these conversations be completed by June 30, 2013 (see 24-Month State Clock sidebar on page 5 for details). To begin, Employment Services created and distributed an “easy to understand” informational flyer reviewing the revamped program. (To review a copy please see “New Rules for CalWORKs” flyer in Appendix).



Operations managers also developed a sequencing plan to manage the client flow; allowing for ample time for each case manager to work with their caseload and participants. In addition to the mailer, clients will be contacted by phone, text or mail, whatever communiqué works best for each family.

Exemptions: Endings and Beginnings

Beginning in April, Employment Services will also start to re-engage the former “Young Child” exempt population, whose exemptions officially ended on December 31, 2012. Over the next 9 months, approximately 425 clients who have been at home caring for their child(ren) will be offered specialized orientations in an effort to smoothly reintroduce them to the program and its wide array of opportunities.

Conversely, the Exempt Volunteers (folks who were eligible but choose to participate) will be rewarded for their hard work and efforts. As long as they continue their plan and meet participation hours, they will remain “exempt volunteers” allowing them to achieve their educational, training and employment goals while preserving their 48-month time clock.

Operational staff are now offering families with young children a **new exemption**. Families with a child under 23 months may elect to trigger a new, **one time only, exception**. This exemption excuses participation from Welfare-to-Work activities until the child reaches 23 months.



To date, Santa Clara has already offered this exemption to 85 families and 35% (30) elected to remain active and participate in employment activities.

Looking Ahead

In the coming months, Employment Services will keep a watchful eye on the impact that these new regulations have on our continuing operation. Management will provide regular briefings at CalWORKs Advisory meetings.

Interested in attending the CalWORKs Advisory? See Appendix for schedule).



24 Month State Clock?

In January 2013, CalWORKs families were introduced to a new state “clock”, in addition to the existing federal time limit of 48 months. The new 24 month clock offers to reduce the required hours for single parents with a child (under six) to 20 hours per week, while also imposing new activity limits. Parents of young families must weigh their options carefully as those who reduce their weekly participation may jeopardize their ability to complete longer academic programs, have their children in full-time child care, or obtain student financial aid.

The new state time clock will be activated in months the family does not meet federal work participation requirements. Families who remain on aid following the expiration of the 24 months will find their participation options limited to employment based activities, such as work experience or community service. (See “Make the Most of Your Time in the CWES Program” in the Appendix)



EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION
of Santa Clara County

The Employment Connection Center (ECC) is a one-stop shop for jobseekers participating in the Employment Services program. During their time at the ECC, participants have the opportunity to receive specialized job readiness services including: resume development, interviewing skills, application assistance, online job search, and more. The ECC works closely with local employers by providing a direct link to qualified candidates.

Innovation, teamwork and partnerships continue to be the driving force behind the Employment Connection Centers success as they link families with employment opportunities. In response to SB 1041 legislation, the ECC has adjusted its business model to adapt and serve a population that has varying work participation requirements.

Beginning in January 2013, the ECC modified the initial Job Club, a workgroup that provides employment support, workshops and resume development. To accommodate clients with varying work participation requirements, Job Club now operates on a 6-day schedule with two sessions each day, a morning session for all participants and another session in the afternoon for those with a 32-hour plan. The ECC has developed a dynamic curriculum that ensures all participants receive the essentials, clients who elect to attend the traditional 32-hour schedule enjoy greater hands-on experience and more time to develop their job readiness skills.

Despite these changes, the ECC hasn't skipped a beat in serving its families and connecting them with gainful employment. Within the first half of the fiscal year, staff have successfully placed a monthly average of 65 job seekers into employment, earning an average \$11.08 per hour!

S
S **E** **R** **V** **I** **C** **E**
L **F**

ECC Expanded Services

The Employment Connection center is expanding its service population to include all CalWORKs families; including those not required to participate in Employment Services as well as former CalWORKs participants. New participants will have an opportunity to receive free job assistance services consisting of daily job search sessions, access to the internet for online job search and full use of the communications suite (fax, telephone, email). Access to the ECC will be available on a drop-in basis to offer families flexibility in attending. Self Help Services are available now, drop-in to find that new job today!

(For more info see the "ECC Access-Self Help Services" Flyer in the Appendix.)

What's New at the ECC?

The Employment Connection Center has taken a proactive approach in addressing the constantly evolving regulations and continues to be a fundamental resource for families seeking employment. Keep reading below to see how the ECC is staying ahead of the curve!



Employment Relations Team: Making a Difference

ECC staff have noted that job development efforts from the Employment Relations (ER) unit is making it easier to match prospective applicants with employment opportunities. The unit works closely with local employers to provide a personalized approach, developing successful employer partnerships that make a difference. Since the unit re-launched in July 2012, they have worked with over 135 employers and thousands of job seekers. To date, the unit has posted over 1,800 jobs on the CalWORKS Job Board and successfully executed two job fairs with fifty employers in attendance. The ER Unit has also hosted more than fifteen employer recruitments and helped approximately 255 candidates find employment at the events.

To find out more about the upcoming Job Fair or to see the latest job listings please visit the ECC website at www.ecstaffing.com.

Free Tax Preparation



The Employment Connection Center has teamed up with United Way of Silicon Valley to offer Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services. The VITA Program offers free tax help to people who make \$51,000 or less and need assistance in preparing their own tax returns.

Many of these families qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a federal tax benefit for working families with low to moderate incomes. This tax credit improves financial stability for those who are working hard but barely making it, by significantly boosting their annual incomes – nearly \$6,000 for some families.

Serving as a VITA site, the ECC campus will be offering tax services every Tuesday and Thursday through April 11th, from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. With so many families choosing work as their primary activity, VITA is serving a record number of applicants at the ECC. (For more info see the "VITA; Free Tax Filing" flyer in the Appendix)

Work Pays



The ECC has recently "gone mobile" by piloting the new "Work Pays" program which aims to provide a direct link between CalWORKS students and part-time jobs. Through Work Pays, students will receive individualized job search assistance, resume development and job placement. To keep the process convenient, Employment Counselors will meet with students on-site at their respective campuses. The Work Pays pilot launched at the Independence Adult Education Campus in December and has expanded to all other partner sites. (For more info see the "Work Pays" flyer in the Appendix)

Supportive Services

Child Care Diversion

Child Care Services have experienced a continual onslaught of legislative attacks over the past several years and the 2012-13 state budget provided yet another twist. As a cost-cutting measure, funding for Stage III child care was slashed and guidelines for the program were drastically modified. The State's actions effectively capped the number of families that would be able to receive Stage III child care forcing agencies to disenroll families from Stage III child care subsidies.



Drawing on past experiences, the Social Services Agency again joined forces with local Alternative Payment Programs (APP) to develop a strategy to maintain continuity of child care services. A series of workshops were developed to engage families and assess their eligibility for the CalWORKs Diversion program. Those eligible were able to secure an additional 24 months of child care services for their family. Of the applications submitted, 538 of the families were approved and 1,178 children continue to receive care.

The State Legislature has since restored funding levels for Stage III child care, ensuring that working families throughout the state can preserve their employment by maintaining child care services.

Cal-Learn Baby Shower

In November, Cal-Learn Partner, Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (PPMM) hosted their fifth annual Baby Shower Event at the 1879 Senter Road Campus.

After months of planning and collecting both baby shower gifts and donations, PPMM was able to transform an ordinary conference room into a Baby Shower gala event for young parents in the Cal-Learn Program. Displayed throughout the room were gifts including many of the necessities that new parents will need to care for young children, including; new clothing, blankets, bottles, books and toys.

More than 100 program participants and their families attended the event. Upon their arrival, each family received a gift bag filled with diapers, wipes, books, resource information, and service referrals. Once inside, each participant had the opportunity to “shop” for needed items not included in the gift bag. After shopping, in true “baby shower” fashion, participants were able to socialize with their peers while enjoying refreshments. PPMM wrapped up the event with a raffle for several larger and more expensive items, such as cribs, strollers, bouncers, and high chairs.

The event was a huge success and PPMM extends a heartfelt “thank you” to all staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to Cal-Learn families.



Refugee Program

Who welcomes and picks up refugees at the airport when they arrive in the U.S.?

The correct answer is VOLAGs. The acronym stands for Voluntary Resettlement Agency and refers to a non-profit organization that facilitates refugee placements in countries willing to accept them. VOLAGs begin working with refugee families while they are still overseas in refugee camps and help prepare them for the difficult transition to life in a new country.

VOLAGs receive funding from the U.S. State Department to assist refugees for the first month after their arrival. Staff and volunteers take care of their basic needs, including housing, food, household items, transportation, and assistance with appointments at the Social Security Administration office, Department of Motor Vehicles, Public Health, and local schools to obtain important documents, immunizations, and registration.

Refugee Service Planning Year

One of the most important linkages the VOLAGs provide is connecting needy refugees with the Social Services Agency. Newly arrived refugees who lack the resources and skills to obtain employment usually apply for public assistance. Since 1984, Santa Clara County has received federal funding to provide employment-related services to refugees residing in the county.

As a condition of federal funding, every three years the County's Refugee Program must hold a public planning session to review local refugee arrival trends and service delivery strategy. This discussion will shape the Refugee Service Plan submitted to the state as well as determine the Refugee Program's future procurement needs. (For Refugee Planning Session and Event dates and locations please see Refugee Planning Letter in the Appendix)



Citizenship Day Workshops

Social Services recently partnered with the New Americans campaign to offer a free Citizenship workshop for low income families at the Employment Connection Center.

Over 1500 people attended the event, hoping to kick start their citizenship application process. Each aspiring citizen was able to receive personal legal consultations, free application assistance, a study guide for the Citizenship Test and an eligibility assessment for a fee waiver which would save applicants \$680 in fees!

With the substantial turnout, many families were invited back on alternate dates to attend Citizenship "mini-sessions" where they'd be able to receive the same services without an extensive wait.

New Americans Campaign members have scheduled more events in the coming months

(please see the Free Citizenship Workshop Flyer in the Appendix).

Safety Net

The services provided by the County’s “Safety Net” organizations are critical to ensure that people have the most basic necessities of life: food and nutrition. Led by Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties and Social Services Agency, the Santa Clara County Safety Net committee is comprised of community based organizations dedicated to alleviating food insecurity through resources distribution, education and advocacy.

Sadly, Santa Clara continues to experience a growing food emergency. Over the last six (6) months, our Safety Net providers, such as Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) have set new records of food distribution. Since January 2013, SHFB experienced a 42% increase in need.

Food Distribution Trend

October	2.6 million lbs.	40% increase
November	2.7 million lbs.	30% increase
December	1.9 million lbs.	17% increase
January	2.5 million lbs.	42% increase

Food Connection

During the fall and early winter (Oct 2012–January 2013), Food Connection hotline at 1-800-984-3663 provided 14,179 referrals to Santa Clara County residents and screened 1,737 county residents for CalFresh eligibility. This marked a **7% increase** over the same period in 2011-2012). The Food Connection has also reported a dramatic increase in the number of homeless callers requesting assistance.

To date, 1,576 callers identified themselves as homeless, a **67% increase** compared to the previous year. Food Connection has added weekday volunteers to address the increased need.

Ask About **cal fresh**
 Pregunte Sobre CalFresh / 詢問有關食品券 / Có câu hỏi về CalFresh
1-800-984-3663
 To receive multi-lingual “Need Food” cards, contact Vu Tran at Second Harvest Food Bank at (408) 266-8866 Ext. 263 or vtran@shfb.org.

Increased Access to Benefits



The CalWIN Development team has been working tirelessly to provide the public with unprecedented access to CalFresh CalWORKs, and Medi-Cal Programs. The most recent venture entails a free mobile application (APP) which allows users to access the “MyBenefitsCalWIN” website via their smart phone. The updates will allow clients to perform the following actions via the new mobile APP:

- ★ Pre-Screen eligibility for CalFresh, CalWORKs, and Medi-Cal,
- ★ Submit applications for CalFresh, CalWORKs and Medi-Cal,
- ★ Request a replacement Benefit Identification Card (BIC),
- ★ Initiate and submit Food Stamp/ CalWORKS Quarterly Reports.

Kudos to the CalWIN Development Team for all their Hard Work!



CalFresh Outreach

One of this year's Safety Net goals is to promote and increase our local Cal Fresh participation rate (California's food stamp program). To this end, Social Services is committed to increasing Santa Clara's participation in this program by **20% each year for the next 3 years**. Social Services staff plans to engage the group in brainstorming efforts and provide regular status updates towards this goal.

CalFresh Myth Card

Safety Net Committee members identified a need for a tool to demystify the CalFresh program. In response, SHFB created the **CalFresh Myth Card** intended to educate the community on "the truth" about CalFresh. This new tool seeks to address many of the common misconceptions and fears which create barriers and deter clients from applying for benefits. For copies of the cards, contact Nicole Martinez at (408) 266-8866 ext. 294 or nmartinez@shfb.org

Children's Summer Feeding Planning

Summer is around the corner and planning meetings have already begun with local partners including the YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, City of San Jose, Parks & Recreation and Catholic Charities with SHFB to discuss summer food options. For more information and to participate in the planning, contact Cindy McCown with Second Harvest Food Bank at (408) 694-0018 or cmccown@shfb.org.



Annual Agency Relations Conference

SHFB's annual Agency Relations Conference for partner organizations will be held on April 4th 2013 at Applied Materials. The day is an opportunity for Safety Net providers to network, hear from speakers about a range of topics and attend workshops on such topics as CalFresh, working with difficult individuals, fundraising and more (For more information go to www.SHFB.org/conference).

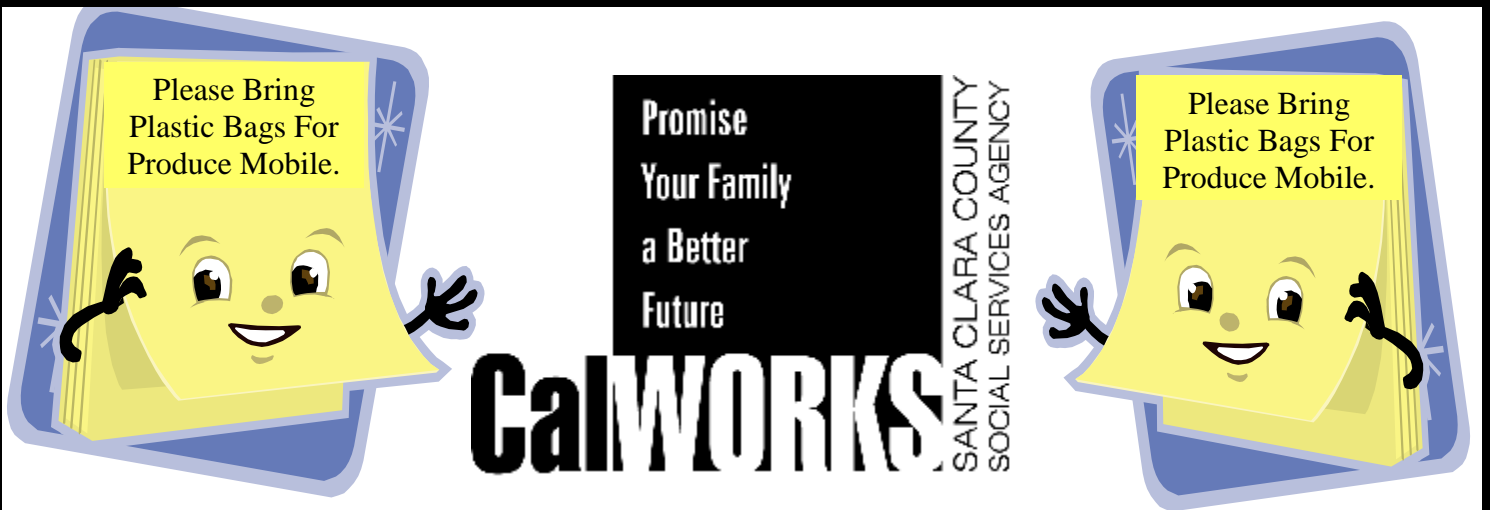
Join Us!

Are you or your organization interested in helping Social Services and the Safety Net combat local hunger? Want to learn more about the programs and opportunities to expand CalFresh? Consider joining us at our monthly Safety Net meeting. Contact Norma at Norma.Bejarano@ssa.sccgov.org to receive announcements and meeting details. (For meeting location and times, please see Safety Net Meeting schedule in the Appendix.)



Appendix

- A. CalWORKs Advisory Schedule
- B. 24 Month State Clock Flyer
- C. Self-Help Services Flyer
- D. Work Pays Program Flyer
- E. VITA Free Tax Filing Flyer
- F. Refugee Planning Letter
- G. Citizenship Day Flyer
- H. Safety Net Meeting Schedule



CalWORKS Advisory 2013 Meeting Calendar

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 2	11:30 – 1:30	Social Services Agency 1879 Senter Road–Orientation Room
February 6	11:30 – 1:30	Social Services Agency 1879 Senter Road–Orientation Room
March 6	11:30 – 1:30	Social Services Agency 1879 Senter Road–Orientation Room
April 3	11:30 – 1:30	Social Services Agency 1879 Senter Road–Orientation Room
May 1	11:30 – 1:30	Social Services Agency 1879 Senter Road–Orientation Room
June 5	11:30 – 1:30	Social Services Agency 1879 Senter Road–Orientation Room
July	* NO MEETING THIS MONTH *	
August 7	11:30 – 1:30	Social Services Agency 1879 Senter Road–Orientation Room
September 4	11:30 – 1:30	Social Services Agency 1879 Senter Road–Orientation Room
October 2	11:30 – 1:30	Social Services Agency 1879 Senter Road–Orientation Room
November 6	11:30 – 1:30	Social Services Agency 1879 Senter Road–Orientation Room
December	➔ NO MEETING THIS MONTH – CLIENT ACHIEVMENT AWARDS	

For future meeting location contact Anita A. Casillas @ 408-755-7732
or email: Anita.Casillas@ssa.sccgov.org

Make The Most Of Your Time In The CWES Program

The CalWORKs Employment Services (CWES) Program will have new rules beginning January 1, 2013.

New Rules Regarding Activities and Required Hours of Participation

- ✓ May allow you to participate in any activity or combination of activities listed below on the Activities Chart.
- ✓ Activities may have time limits depending on how many hours you participate per week.
- ✓ May allow you to adjust the number of hours you are required to participate depending on your family type as listed below on the Weekly Hours of Participation Chart.

Activities Chart

- ✓ If you are enrolled in any activities on List A of the Activities chart for at least 20 hours or more per week, you can add any activities on List B with no time limits.
- ✓ If you are enrolled in any activities listed on the List A of the Activities chart for less than 20 hours per week, you can add any activities on the right side of the chart but you will be limited to a total of 24 months in these activities (except vocational training which is limited to 12 months).

Your Welfare to Work Plan (WTW) Plan

- ✓ Our records indicate that you have less than 24 months left on receiving cash assistance. Therefore, you are eligible to continue in your current WTW Plan or revise your plan to include any combination of activities in List A and List B for the remaining time you have left in CalWORKs.

Activities Chart

List A: Federal Work Activities, Activities with No Time Limits*	List B: Activities Limited to a Total of 24 Months
Employment (subsidized, unsubsidized or self employed)	Vocational Training/Education (beyond the 12 months limit)
Work Experience	High School Diploma or GED
Community Service	Adult Basic Education (includes reading, writing and arithmetic)
Job Readiness and Job Search (8 week limit)*	English as a Second Language (ESL)
Mental Health or Substance Abuse Services	
Vocational Training/Education (12 months time limit)*	
Work Study (only available at colleges)	

(* two exceptions cited)

Also, effective January 2013, there are changes in the number of required hours for some families.

Weekly Hours of Participation Chart

If you are a	Then your new weekly/monthly hours of participation are
Single-parent with child under six	20 hours per week/87 hours per month*
Single-parent with no child under six	30 hours per week/130 hours per month
Two-parent family	35 hours per week/152 per month

*If you reduce your weekly hours of participation to less than 30, you will only be eligible for part time childcare.

Contact your Employment Counselor if you wish to change your existing plan.

There is no change to the 48-MONTH LIFETIME LIMIT.

Questions and Answers

Do I have to change my plan and/or reduce my hours?

- No, you have the choice to keep your current WTW plan (if you are meeting the requirements).
- Your worker can discuss these new rules with you.
- You will continue to receive supportive services for activities in your approved plan.
- If you change your WTW Plan, your supportive services such child care, may be reduced.

What if my aid was cut (sanctioned)?

- If your aid was cut for not participating (called a 'sanction'), these new rules may allow you to get more cash aid ending your sanction.
- If you are sanctioned, please call (408) 758-3500 right away to see if these new rules may end your sanction and give you more cash aid.

What if I was told I don't have to participate in activities (exempt) or I don't think I can?

- There are reasons you may not have to participate in WTW activities (exemptions). For example, this may include a medical disability or taking care of a sick household member.
- If you are not already exempt and think you should be, please contact your worker right away.
- If you are not required to participate, you may still be able to volunteer and get supportive services like child care. If you would like to volunteer, please call (408) 758-3500.

What are important things to remember about my WTW 24-Month Time limit?

- The WTW 24-Month Time limit is not necessarily the first 24 months of cash aid. It is dependent on your plan and actual hours you participate each month.
- As a reminder, to make the most of your 24-Month Time limit, you must be enrolled in activities that meet the federal work participation requirements (List A). Your worker can also help you with these activities in order for you to make the most of your CalWORKs time.

Need Help Finding a Job?

ECC Access - Self Help Services Are Available to You!

Who is eligible for ECC Access Self Help Services?

- ◆ CalWORKs Applicants
- ◆ Former CalWORKs Clients

When are services available?

During drop-in hours – see below

The **Employment Connection (ECC)** will provide resources that will help you learn how to:

- Create or Update a Resume
- Complete an Online Job Application
- Develop Basic Internet Skills
- Prepare for a job interview
- Find a Job – Connect you with employers recruitments



Our Employment Counselors will assist you with employment preparation and job search .

EMPLOYMENT  **CONNECTION**
of Santa Clara County

1879 Senter Rd. Door #10
San José, CA 95112
(408) 758-3797



Visit our website for more information at:

www.ecstaffing.com

Drop-in Services are Available:

Mondays -Thursdays

➤ 2:00pm -4:00pm
and

Fridays

➤ 9:00am-12:00pm

Children are not allowed in the center.

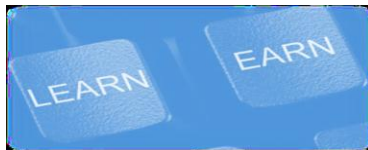
County of Santa Clara CalWORKs

Work Pays Project (WPP)

December 2012 CWES kicked off a collaborative with Adult Education Schools and the Community Colleges.

Onsite support for CalWORKs Clients to maximize success with the work/school model.

Work/School a path to success!!



*Reach the top
Learn & Earn*

**WPP will help with:**

- Creating a resume
- Completing a master application
- Developing interviewing skills
- Job matching (over 1800 jobs to choose from)
- Scheduling interviews
- Finding a job

Free Tax Filing

If you have earned income in 2012 you have to file your tax returns. We can make it easy.

And FREE!

If you earned *less* than \$50,000.00 last year you can get **FREE** Income Tax Assistance at:

Employment Connection
1879 Senter Road, Door #10, San Jose
Tuesdays & Thursdays
January 29th to April 11th, 2013
12:00 – 4:00
(408) 758-3797

This VITA site is open to the public and is *First Come First Served*

Items you must bring to the VITA site to have your tax returns prepared:

- Proof of identification
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents and/or a Social Security Number verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- Current year's tax package if you received one
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for Direct Deposit
- Total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax identifying number (the provider's Social Security Number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number)
- To file taxes electronically on a **married-filing-joint tax return**, **both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.**

County of Santa Clara

Social Services Agency



333 West Julian Street
San Jose, California 95110-2335

March 6, 2013

TO: Community Partners
SUBJECT: Refugee Program Planning

Santa Clara County Social Services Agency administers a Refugee Program which receives two federally funded allocations – the Targeted Assistance (TA) and Refugee Employment Social Services (RESS). These allocations' major objective is to assist recently arrived refugees, asylees, and victims of human trafficking in becoming self-sufficient through the provision of short-term employment services and English Language training. As a condition of receiving these funds, Santa Clara County is required to consult the local refugee community every three years and incorporate their input into the Refugee Services Plan.

This letter invites you to join our 2013 Refugee Planning Session at the following time and location:

Friday, April 12, 2013
9:00 -11:30 a.m.
Social Services Agency
333 W. Julian Street - Auditorium
San Jose CA 95110

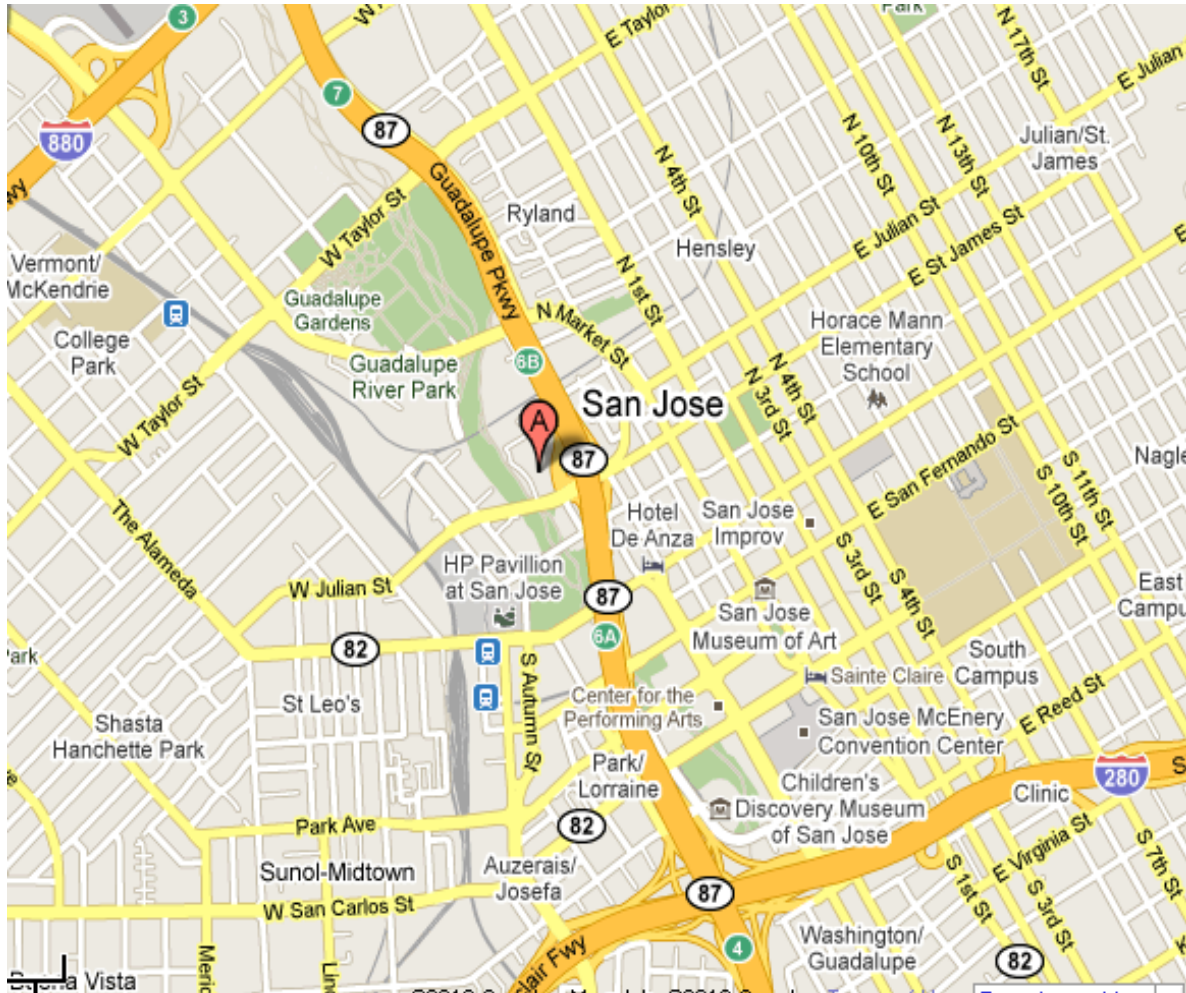
Through this meeting we aim to identify best practices that will maximize refugees' chances for finding employment, taken into the consideration the refugees' needs and circumstance, and the labor market condition. Furthermore, we will explore developing a service component or model that will strategically align such needs and conditions with the regulations and performance outcome standards set by the Federal and State oversight agencies.

Please join us in designing our service strategy. A map of the meeting location is included in the back of this invitation. If you have questions regarding this planning or the process, please contact Rafaela Perez at (408) 755-7734 or Rafaela.Perez@ssa.sccgov.org.

Sincerely,

Denise Boland, Administrator/Assistant to DEBS Director
Department of Employment and Benefits
Social Services Agency
Santa Clara County

Social Services Agency
333 West Julian Street, Auditorium
San Jose CA 95110





Are you ready to be a U.S. citizen?

Come apply for naturalization with the International Rescue Committee in San Jose on Saturday, April 6th at our application workshop.

Benefits of applying at the IRC:

- Complete assistance with filling out application and fee waiver* forms
- Certified mail and assistance with follow-up after turning in application
- Free civics class to help you prepare for your test and interview

This event is **by appointment only**, from 10 am to 2 pm. To see if you are eligible for naturalization, or schedule an appointment, please call (408) 277-0255 x 19.

*Fee waivers are for U.S.C.I.S. fees only. All IRC service fees have been waived; however there will be a \$40 cost for certified mail and immigration software.



International Rescue Committee

1210 South Bascom Avenue, #227, San Jose CA 95128

From Harm to Home | Rescue.org



Safety Net Meeting 2013 Calendar



SAFETY NET MEETING INFORMATION

The Safety Net Committee is co-chaired by Santa Clara County Social Services Agency and Second Harvest Food Bank. It is comprised of Community Based Organizations (CBO's) that come together in partnership to educate, access, strategize, develop and implement service recommendations to strengthen food and other services provided to those in need throughout Santa Clara County.

Safety Net meetings are held at the Second Harvest Food bank on the **4th Thursday** of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is a brown bag lunch meeting.

For more information about Safety Net Meetings and/or to request that discussion items be placed on the agenda, please contact Pam at: (408) 755-7743 or pam.saunders@ssa.sccgov.org

<p>Location</p> <p>Second Harvest Food Bank 750 Curtner Avenue San Jose, CA 95125 (Upstairs, Going Room)</p>
<p>Time</p> <p>11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</p>

Meeting Dates
January 24
February 28
March 28
April 25
May 23
June 27
July 25
August 22
September 26
October 24
November (No Meeting)
December (TBD)



SANTA CLARA COUNTY
SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY