

SOLVING PROBLEMS

- Get the list of financial aid that doesn't count against your aid from your worker.
- Ask the college to help you prove the source of the money.
- Turn in a written list all your educational expenses.
- If you get a loan, put in writing how much you will repay and when.
 - √ Loans can be from family or friends.
 - √ All that matters is if you agreed to repay the loan. If you fail to make payments, this is between you and the person who loaned you the money, as long as the agreement was not a fraud.

Problems? Ask for a state hearing. Fill out the back of any Notice of Action or call 800-952-5253.

Call Legal Services

Prepared by
Legal Services of Northern California
www.lsnrc.net

CalWORKs

Making it Work for You

CalWORKs Students

...and
Financial Aid



YOUR RIGHTS

Does Financial Aid Count?

Most student financial aid doesn't count against your grant or food stamps.



You must **always** report your income, whether it counts against your grant or not.

- Any Title IV funds, undergraduate grants by the Federal Secretary of Education or based on need, loans with a written repayment agreement.
- *State* (CalWORKs) and *federal* Work-study does not count at all.
- Other types of financial aid, such as private scholarship money, are counted **except** if used to meet educational expenses, such as tuition, books, fees, equipment, etc.

You must document these costs for the county.

What Are Education Expenses?



Think of *any* possible school expense! For example, child care for study time, transportation to study groups, general reference books, etc.

- For *Food Stamps*, you *can't* count everyday living expenses, such as rent, personal clothing, or food eaten at home.



Verification

- Report any financial aid on your income report. You may have to turn in proof.
- By law, the school can't give out any student information unless they have your permission.

Support Services

- The county can *ask* if you want to use your financial aid for supportive services. It **cannot** deny or reduce your CalWORKs supportive services *if* you say the financial aid is not available for these needs. It is *your* right to choose.
- CalWORKs supportive services should cover what you need to do your training, but may not cover everything you want. For example, it only pays for the least expensive transportation (usually a



bus pass).

- You can use financial aid for other important needs (such as books that are recommended but not required, or child care for hours the student is studying), and leave the CalWORKs supportive services to pay for the things that it *will* cover.

Just Say "NO!"



- The county **must** have your permission to count your financial aid as meeting a support services need.
- **Just check "no" on the WTW 8 form.** Unless the financial aid award clearly limits how you can spend the money, you don't have to use it in the way estimated by the school. You just have to use it for the general purpose of the grant or award.

Example: The award *estimates* \$600 for rent and \$400 on books. You can use it all for your housing costs, and have CalWORKs pay for your books.

- If you already gave permission to use your financial aid for CalWORKs support services, you can always change your mind. Just ask for a new WTW 8 form and check "No."