

SOLVING PROBLEMS

You have the full 48-months on CalWORKs to get the training you need to get off welfare!

- You don't have to do job search if it would interfere with your existing job or *county-approved* schooling.
- The County cannot have across-the-board limits on education. It must see what *you* need.
 - For example, it cannot limit education to 1 year programs, or say that everyone has to do work experience first.
 - If your assessment doesn't recommend education or training, or you don't like what county assigns you for education, ask for a "Third Party Assessment."
 - √ A neutral person will look at your employment needs.

If you disagree with the assessment or the assignment, you should be sent to a 3rd party assessment. NOT sanctioned for refusing to sign the plan!

- Ask your worker to count "non-core" activities to core hours if you need more time. Ask for a hearing if denied.

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

Call Legal Services

CalWORKs

Making it Work for You

Getting Education and Training



Prepared by

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YOUR RIGHTS

Getting Education

There are two ways to get CalWORKs education:

1. If you are already enrolled in school when you start welfare-to-work. See "SIP" brochure.
2. If your "assessment" shows you need it for employment.

Assessment

If you don't find a job through Job Search, you will go to "assessment." This is where the county reviews your work and education history, in order to make your welfare-to-work plan.

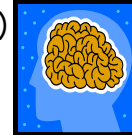
- Talk to the assessor about:
 - Why you want education or training.
 - Ask for career testing if you don't know what you want to do, and what the wages are for different careers.
- The county must look at your *skill level*, and not just that you have worked or finished a certain amount of school.

CalWORKs law says "every county shall provide...education and training the participant needs to find self-supporting work."

Basic Education

The county **must** assign you to Basic Education (reading,

math, GED or English Language) classes *if* "appropriate and necessary" to remove your barriers to employment.



- Ask your county for its written rules on how it will decide if these classes are "appropriate and necessary."

Hours of Education

Most families must meet the first 20 hours of welfare to work through "core" activities. SIPs are not required to do core hours.



- "Core" activities are work, self-employment, unpaid work, work study, job search, *and* the first 12 months of Vocational Education.
- If you are *not* in Vocational Education, this means that your education will be assigned to the remaining 12-15 "non-core" hours.
- If you are making satisfactory progress in a degree or certificate program leading to employment, you may be able to do some of your school time during the "core" hours.

Jane's must do 32 hours/week. Her assessed program is job skills training for 20 hours. This is 8 more hours than fits in the "non-core" activities time. If this is a degree program, the extra 8 hours can "spill over" into her "core" time. Jane would then be doing 20 hours of education, and 12 hours of a work activity.

Other Ways to Get School

- *2-parent households.*

If the other parent is meeting the 35 hour requirement, you can go to school on your own or through CalWORKs. If you go on your own, you don't have to follow the CalWORKs rules, but, you *won't* get CalWORKs support services.



- *Volunteer* to do extra hours through CalWORKs. You *will* get support services. CalWORKs must let you drop the extra hours *without* sanctioning you. *Talk to your worker first.*
- *Do School on your own, in addition to CalWORKs*, if the county won't approve school or you don't want to follow the CalWORKs school rules. You *won't* get support services.
- *On sanction.* If CalWORKs won't give you education, you may want to take a CalWORKs sanction. You will lose your share of the cash aid and (in some cases) food stamps. The rest of your family will still get aid. If you have subsidized rent, your rent won't go down even though you have less income. ***Talk to a legal advocate first.***