AEGIS
MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.

VOC.-REHAB. HANDBOOK

- *CalWorks*
- *E.D.D.*
- *Dept. of Rehab*
- *G.A.I.N.*
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A Brief History of Welfare

Changing Economics

Shift from Agricultural to Industrial Society

- 1890 28% of population was urban
- 1930 56% of population was urban
- Disappearance of extended families

Stock Market Crash of 1929

Great Depression

- Unemployment exceeded 25%
- Men left families in search of jobs

The Government's Response

The Social Security Act of 1935

Established "welfare" system:

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)

- Children deprived of parental support or care:
  - -Death of parent
  - -Continued absence from home
  - -Physical or mental incapacity
- In later years, states added unemployment of a parent as a deprivation factor in determining eligibility

Need For Reform

- Perpetuated dependency on system
- No incentive to work
- No assistance provided to find work or improve circumstances

Welfare Reform

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PROWA)

- Focuses on work and responsibility
- Replaced **AFDC with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)**
- California = **California Work Opportunity and Responsibilities to Kids Program (CalWORKS)**

CalWORKS: provided temporary financial assistance and employment focused services to families with minor children who have income and property below State maximum limits for their family size.

CalWORKs

CalWORKs is California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Program. It is a welfare program for people who have children under 19 years of age. CalWORKs provides money for children and the relatives caring for them and places work and training requirements on most parents. It is a temporary financial assistance program, in addition to a monthly check. Families in CalWORKs automatically get Medi-Cal. mandated by Federal and State laws.

Eligibility

- Must reside in California
- U. S. citizen or lawful immigrant
- Social Security card
- Families with children
- One parent must be absent, dead or disabled or unemployed or working less than 100 hours per month
- Income Limits (must be below the need standard) See chart
- Limits on property and resources ($2000) in cash or bank account, $3000 if someone in the household is 60 years old) See chart
- **Time Limits for adults** (FIVE YEAR LIFETIME beginning January 1, (1998) Children will continue to be aided.
- 18 to 24 Month time limit (Adults must be working 32 hours a week (single parent) or 35 hours a week (two parents) OR YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASH AID.
- Participate in welfare-to-work activities
- Child support cooperation (Cooperate with District Attorney to collect child support from absent parent)
- Provide proof of immunization of children
- Provide proof of children school attendance
- Monthly reporting (report any changes in income or the household)
- Drug related felony (If convicted after January 1, 1998, you can not get CalWORKs for yourself) Your children can still qualify for aid.
- Fraud convictions (You can be disqualified from CalWORKs for 6 months or a lifetime, depending on the seriousness of the fraud).

Benefits

- Medi-Cal
- Cash aid (depending on family size)
- Additional cash aid (pregnancy, child support, special needs, non-recurring special needs, transitional Medi-Cal, hardship supplement)
- Diversion payment (help with a major expense needed for you to be able to work, like car repairs or tools-to prevent you from needing ongoing assistance)
- Supportive services (County will pay for: Childcare, costs of books, tools, and uniforms, counseling, domestic violence counseling, self-initiated education or training programs, help with transportation to go to work or a GAIN activity, mental health (services)
- Substance abuse treatment
- Job retention benefits

G.A.I.N.

Greater Avenues for Independence. GAIN is an employment program for low-income residents to promote self-sufficiency and independence. GAIN helps CalWORKs participants prepare for and find employment. This program is designed to both alleviate hardship, promote family health, personal responsibility and economic independence. Mandated by Federal and State laws.

Eligibility

- Mandatory for **CalWORKs** participants who are receiving cash aid

Benefits

- Appraisal (work history and education)
- Job Search and workshops
- Assessment (vocational assessment if you do not get an unsubsidized job while participating in job search)
- Re-appraisal
- Supportive and other services (childcare costs, transportation costs, work or training-related costs, post-employment services)
- Substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence referral and treatment services

General Relief

General Relief (GR) is a county program that provides temporary cash aid to indigent adults and certain sponsored legal immigrant families who are ineligible for federal or State programs. General Relief (GR) is a very restrictive program with many requirements. New program rules require treatment programs for people with substance abuse problems.

Eligibility

- **Reside in L.A. County**
- **Cash and resource limits** (No more than $50 in cash, can own the following: one car, not worth more than $4,500, necessary household furnishing, tools of your trade, house you live in, and is not valued over $34,000)
- **Time limits** (If employable, you can get General Relief (GR) for 6 months out of 12 months. You can get an extra 3 months of General Relief (GR), if you fully cooperate in the GROW program). (If unemployable, you will not have a time limit).

Benefits

- Cash aid $221.00
- In addition to cash aid, if you ask and can show need you can also get:
- Bus tokens to all required appointments
- A personal care kit (deduct $5.00 from the grant)
- Sanitary napkins
- Housing repairs if they have a lien on your house
- Supplements for medically required diets
- Certain essential furniture
- Free health care from any county hospital or clinic
- A special housing grant of $136.00 if you can prove, with a letter from the landlord that the letter will prevent eviction
- If you are dependent on alcohol or other drugs, ask your case worker to refer you to a recovery program that General Relief (GR) will pay for
- Job training programs are available
- Earned income disregard (You can earn up to $200 per month with no loss of General Relief (GR) benefits)
- Benefits if you are homeless (food stamps or food vouchers the day of application. You are also entitled to emergency housing)

WIC

The WIC is program defined as Women, Infants, and Children. Pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children can receive food vouchers through the WIC program. The WIC program also provides nutrition counseling and referrals to health care. The WIC offices are often in health clinics, hospitals, and community centers that provide baby and maternal care. Due to a lack of enough federal funding, not everyone who is eligible for the WIC program receives benefits.

Eligibility

- **Pregnant or breast-feeding women and infants at medical risk**
- **Infants up to 6 months of age born to WIC participants or mothers who would have been eligible during pregnancy**
- **Children up to the age of 5 at medical risk**
- **Pregnant or breast-feeding women and infants with inadequate dietary patterns**
- **Children up to the age of 5 with inadequate dietary patterns**
- **Postpartum women at nutritional risk**

Benefits

- **WIC food vouchers**
- **Women who breastfeed totally will receive an extra set of WIC food vouchers**
- **Average value of vouchers is about $50 per person per month**
- **Nutritional counseling**
- **Individual counseling**

Food Stamps

Food Stamps is a government funded program that offers coupons you can exchange for food at the grocery store, in order that you and your family will not go hungry. The Food Stamps program was established to improve the nutrition of people of low income households.

Eligibility

- **Receive CalWORKs or General Relief**
- **U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen**
- Many legally immigrated non-citizens qualify if they were in the country before August 22,1996
- Have limited income (Gross income and net income must be below the limits) See chart
- Have limited resources and property (Not more than $2000 in cash or bank account, $3000 if someone in the household is at least 60 years old) See chart
- Are able-bodied, do not have children under 18, and are working 20 hours per week
- Are in the workforce
- Beginning July 1, 1997, if you are convicted of a drug related felony, you will be permanently ineligible for food stamps
- SSI recipients in California are not eligible to receive food stamps because food allowance is included in the SSI grant. Homeless people may get food stamps
- Strikers and their families are usually excluded from the program
- Some full time students (Between the ages of 18 and 50) can get food stamps

Benefits

- Increase food-buying power, so you can get more food for less money
- The value of your Food Stamps depends on the size of your eligible household (For example, one eligible person would be entitled to $127.00 in Food Stamps coupons. The maximum amount is $ 1,343.00 for 14 family members in the household)

G.R.O.W.

GROW is defined as General Relief Opportunities to Work. It is a county program intended to help General Relief participants' train for jobs. The GROW program provides employment and training services to help employable individuals obtain a job and become self-sufficient.

Eligibility

- **Mandatory for all employable General Relief participants who are receiving cash aid**

Benefits

- Orientation/Appraisal
- Job Club
- Vocational assessment
- Educational training
- Work experience
- Job services
- Post-employment services
- Supportive services General Relief (GR) applicants are currently screened for substance abuse problems as part of the application process. If warranted, they are referred for treatment)
- Work related expenses

Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal is California's program that was originated to pay for medical care for some people receiving public assistance or have a low income and meet other requirements. It is funded in large part with Federal Medicaid funds. Medi-Cal is also supported by Federal and State Taxes.

Eligibility

- To get Medi-Cal, you must fall into one of the following Medi-Cal program categories
- (A.) Public Assistance:
- If you are approved to receive cash grant payments under any of the programs listed below, you are automatically eligible for Medi-Cal coverage
- (TANF) Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- (SSI/SSP) Supplemental Security Income and State Supplemental Program
- (ECA) Entrant Cash Assistance
- (RCA) Refugee Cash Assistance
- (IHSS) In-Home Supportive Services
- (B.) Medically Needy (if you are age 65 or older, blind, disabled, or you meet the family circumstances required by TANF). (You have minor children who are needy and do not have the support of care of one parent because of his/her absence, death, incapacity, or unemployment).
- Resident of California
- Age 65 or older
- Under age 21
- Pregnant
- Disabled or blind (by SSI guidelines)
- A parent or relative taking care of a child where a parent is incapacitated or absent
- A parent where both parents are in the home but the "principal wage earner" (the parent who has earned the most in the past 2 years) is not working more than 100 hours per month
- You are infected with tuberculosis (not available to undocumented persons or others with "unsatisfactory immigrant status")
- A refugee or entrant who has been in the country less than 8 months (as defined by the federal government)
- Receiving care in a skilled nursing or intermediate care facility
- Transitional and continuing Medi-Cal (up to one year)
- Section 1931 (Low income families where a parent is absent, deceased, unemployed, not working full time, or disabled, even if they make more money than listed on the "Income Limits for Medi-Cal chart)
- Restricted Medi-Cal (emergency care for a serious health problem)

ONE-STOP

The One-Stop Work Force is a joint city/private industry effort to centralize employment resource centers for workers and the unemployed. Services offered include federally funded job training programs. Each One-Stop provides three levels of service. The first level of service is the One-Stop Employment Resource Center, open to all on a walk in basis. The second and third levels, career counseling and training, have some eligibility requirements. You must attend an orientation and assessment before receiving counseling and training. All One-Stops **must** serve the disabled. Most services are free of charge.

Eligibility

- Open to the public
- Individuals seeking first, new, or better jobs
- Individuals seeking employment preparation and training programs
- Employers seeking to identify and hire new workers

Benefits

- Career guidance and counseling
- Individual skills assessment and occupational skills analysis
- Case management services
- Self-service directories of training, education, and community services
- Listings of available jobs and labor-market information
- Self registration and WIA eligibility screening
- Classroom training
- On-the-job training
- Customized training
- Short-term computer training
- Employment resource library
- Internet computers, phone/fax, copier, reference library
- Job development and placement assistance
- Group networking and Job club
- Career and professional development workshops
- Information line resource referrals
- Offer special programs and services (EDD Veterans Information, Unemployment Insurance Information, and WIA Title III Employment workshops)

Benefits

- Most doctor's services and most clinic visits
- Laboratory, X-ray, and radiation treatment
- Eyeglasses and eye appliances
- Blood and blood derivatives
- Some dental services
- Medical screenings for persons under 21 to identify medical problems
- Prenatal care guidance
- Prescribed drugs on the Medi-Cal list
- Medical supplies on the Medi-Cal medical supplies list
- Inpatient hospital care
- Nursing home care
- Physical therapy
- Hemodialysis services
- There are a few exceptions, but generally you can get a total of two of the following services below:
- Acupuncture services
- Occupational Therapy
- Audiology services
- Podiatry services
- Speech therapy
- Chiropractic services
- Psychology services

WIA

WIA is defined as the Workforce Investment Act. The WIA act was implemented on July 1, 2000 and replaced the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The WIA program's primary purpose is as follows: To provide workforce investment activities that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the nation.

Eligibility

- Citizenship Eligibility to work
- Selective service registrant
- Terminated or laid-off
- Permanent plant closure/downsizing
- Unemployed/under-employed
- Long-term unemployed
- Verifiable self-employment
- Displaced homemaker

Benefits

- Job retraining
- Adult education, ESL, and GED classes
- Short-term computer training
- Classroom vocational skills training
- Individual or group counseling
- Classroom or self-paced tutorials
- Specialized and individual training
- Specialized curriculum on individual basis
- Labor Market Information
- Community services information and referral
- Employment-related workshops
- Career counseling
- Job-search techniques
- Resume writing
- Interviewing skills
- Job-search resources
- Job listings
- Career resource library
- Computers and Microsoft office suite
- Telephone, printer and fax machines
- California's job information system
- Computer lab
- Internet access
- Reference library

EDD

EDD stands for Employment Development Department. In its main function as an employment service, EDD's Job Service uses computer technology to serve the needs of employers and job seekers. Automated systems are used to match qualified job applicants electronically with employers' job openings. Job Service is one the world's largest public employment service operations. The federal government and the states share responsibility for the nationwide Job Service Program.

Eligibility

- Open to the public

Benefits

- In addition to job placement. EDD's Job Service offers other services to job seekers
- Job search workshops that teach skills needed to find and keep a job
- Referral to training or educational facilities and social service agencies for special services or schooling to help employment prospects
- Special assistance to unemployment insurance clients, veterans, persons with disabilities, youth, welfare recipients, and migrant and seasonal farmers
- Job Service also offers other services to employers:
- Re-employment services for dislocated workers
- Current labor market information important in planning for business expansion, relocation, and future hiring and training needs
- Focused recruitment campaigns for new business ventures or facilities requiring a large number of specialized workers in a hurry

W.O.R.C., Inc.

W.O.R.C., Inc. is a non-profit organization that offers specific vocational training and related services to mentally disabled adults residing in the San Gabriel Valley Mental Health area. About 30 students are enrolled in vocational training and employment assistance at any given time. Participation in the program is voluntary. No fees are required of students. The program receives funds from the Dept. of Mental Health of Los Angeles County, State Dept. of Rehabilitation; from donations; and from revenue generated by project work

Eligibility

- Must be between 18 and 64 years of age
- Must have a documented mental disability by a qualified authority
- Must be capable of caring for own personal needs, such as medication, transportation, etc.
- Must demonstrate the potential to benefit from vocational training
- Reader, interpreter, note taker services
- Independent living services

Benefits

- Training Programs
- Clerical and computer
- Janitorial
- Grounds maintenance (Additional vocational training areas are developed in response to the needs of local industry, the community, and the students)

Dept. of Rehabilitation

Dept. of Rehabilitation is a state agency that assists people with disabilities to enter the work force or to return to work and live independently in their communities. Priority will be given to serving people with disabilities who can benefit most from their services. The Dept. of Rehabilitation receives funds from the Federal and State governments.

Eligibility

- Have a physical or mental impairment that makes it significantly difficult to obtain or maintain employment
- Requires vocational rehabilitation services in order to obtain or retain employment
- Should a person require rehabilitation services in order to become or remain employed

Benefits

- Counseling and Evaluation
- Assistive devices and adaptive equipment
- College/University tuition
- Transportation assistance
- Resume development
- Interview techniques
- Job placement services
- Post employment services

Goodwill Industries

Goodwill Industries is a non-profit agency providing training programs and job training. There is the Base Program, which serves individuals who have various disabilities and are interested in obtaining evaluation, training and/or employment. Through the Base Program, Goodwill Industries witnesses the power of work to transform lives. There is also the Training and Employment Program that customizes training to meet special needs. Goodwill Industries is committed to “thinking beyond barriers” where training is concerned. Goodwill industries also provides temporary employment services and welfare to work training programs. Goodwill Industries is self funded. The VR, WIA. Services are free.

Eligibility

- Age 18 and up
- Barrier to employment

Benefits

- Benefits for Base Programs are the following:
- Work services/work experience
- Situational assessment
- Work adjustment
- Vocational training
- Job Club
- Supported employment
- Special projects
- Benefits for training and employment program are the following;
- Class "B" truck driving and forklift training
- Food services
- Computer and office applications
- Work acclimation training
- Customer service/call center
- Janitorial services

CalWORKs

For applicants (people who are not yet on aid): Your gross family income per month (your earnings before taxes and other deductions, minus $90 for each employed person, plus any other income) must be below the need standard below:

# In Family	Gross Income Limit
1	$381
2	$624
3	$775
4	$920
5	$1049
6	$1180
7	$1296
8	$1412
9	$1531
10	$1662

The maximum grants (MAP) for families with no other income are:

# Persons on Case	"Nonexempt" Grant	"Exempt" Grant
1	$302	$336
2	$493	$551
3	$611	$682
4	$728	$811
5	$829	$925
6	$931	$1039
7	$1023	$1141
8	$1114	$1244
9	$1204	$1344
10	$1293	$1443

Food Stamps

The household's monthly "gross income" and "net income" must be below the limits on the following charts for you to qualify for food stamps. ("Gross" means all countable income that the members of the household receive. "Net" is the amount left after you subtract certain deductions).

The gross income limit does not apply to elderly (over age 60) or disabled persons.

# In Household	Gross Income Limit
1	$873
2	$1199
3	$1504
4	$1810
5	$2115
6	$2421
7	$2726
8	$3032
9	$3606
10	$3910

For each additional person, add $306.
(updated March 2000)

Food stamp benefit issuance chart

# In Household	Food Stamps
1	$127
3	$335
10	$607
14	$959
	$1,343

INCOME LIMITS FOR MEDI-CAL

Unless you get CALWORKs, SSI, or qualify for " Section 1931" Medi-Cal your monthly income must be below the following limits (called "need levels) to qualify for free Medi-Cal. If your income is over these limits, you still may qualify for Medi-Cal with a share of cost. (In the table, a pregnant woman counts as a family of two) (in figuring the income, of a child, the income of a step-parent does not count)

# of persons	Pregnant women & Children under age 1	Children age 1-6	Children age 6-19	All others
1	$1,374	$914	$687	$600
2	$1,844	$1,226	$922	$750
2 adults				$934
3	$2,314	$1539	$1,157	$934
4	$2,784	$1,851	$1,392	$1,100
5	$3,254	$2,164	$1,692	$1,259
6	$3,724	$2,477	$1,862	$,1417
7	$4,194	$2,789	$2,097	$1,550
8	$4,664	$3,102	$2,332	$1,692
9	$5,134	$3,414	$2,567	$1,825
10	$5,604	$3,727	$2,802	$1,959
Each additional person add	$470	$313	$235	$14

Your family's resources must be below the following limits to qualify for Medi-Cal

# In Family	Resource Limit
1	$2000
2	$3000
3	$3150
4	$3300
5	$3450
6	$3600
7	$3750
8	$3900
9	$4050
10 (or more)	$4200

Transitional and continuing Medi-Cal

If you received TANF or CalWORKs during at least 3 of the last 6 months, and you leave, or you get cut off CalWORKs because you started making too much money, you can get Transitional Medi-Cal assistance for up to one year.

If you marry or reunite with someone you are already married to, you can get Continuing Medi-Cal for 12 months. If you lose CalWORKs because you start getting more child or spousal support, you can get Continuing Medi-Cal for 4 months.

CRISIS SERVICES
REFERRAL HANDBOOK

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For any questions, additions or corrections,
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