WORKFARE & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Protecting Health Care Access and Food Assistance Across Los Angeles County

County of Los Angeles DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Community PARTNERS

Center for Strategic Partnerships

SoCal Grantmakers

AGENDA

- HR 1 Overview
- Defining Workfare and Community Services
- Becoming a Workfare and Community Service Worksite
- Next Steps



HR 1 OVERVIEW

Work requirements will soon be mandatory for several federal assistance programs, threatening access to Medicaid and SNAP benefits across the nation.

HR 1 Changes:

- Shifts massive federal safety net costs to states and counties - up to $9.5 billion per year in new costs for California counties alone according to California State Association of Counties.
- Expands work requirements, reduces benefits, and increases eligibility verification rules for certain households.

Who is Impacted:

- Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) ages 18-64*
- Immigrant Californians

**For Medi-Cal, the age range is adults ages 19-64*

Impacts in Los Angeles County:

- DPSS (which administers both CalFresh and MediCal benefits) estimates **more than 270K CalFresh participants** and **over 500K MediCal participants** are at risk of losing access to healthcare and food assistance in LA County.
- Hospitals, Community Clinics, and Health Systems will experience significant strain on resources and ability to provide care.
- Rising costs and administrative burdens may also impact participants' benefits due to administrative barriers, as well as increase administrative costs and workloads.

HR 1 LOS ANGELES COUNTY RESPONSE

TAKE IT TO THE VOTERS: MEASURE ER

- LA County Supervisors put Measure ER on June ballot to help offset lost federal funds

STATE AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS SHORE UP EXISTING PROGRAMS

- Focus on programs that will help those vulnerable to changes
  - E.g., access to education, workforce development, volunteer programs, etc.

HOSPITAL SYSTEMS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES REACT

- Stepping up to support patient access to health insurance and health care.
- LA Care has launched “Keep LA Covered” campaign, along with the Coverage Champions Initiative

LA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES IMPLEMENTS WORKFARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE SYSTEM

- Support individuals with opportunities to fulfill new work eligibility requirements and mitigate risk of unintended disenrollment

JOIN US AND PROTECT ACCESS TO THESE VITAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMS!

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Share information about CalFresh and Medi-Cal changes

Help notify the community about exemptions to work requirements

BECOME A HOST WORKSITE AND HOST VOLUNTEERS AT YOUR AGENCY

We are looking for the following types of partners:

- Organizations serving vulnerable populations most likely impacted by these changes
- Trusted, neighborhood-based organizations
- Agencies familiar with managing volunteers

DEFINING “WORKFARE” AND “COMMUNITY SERVICE”

New community engagement requirements for certain Medi-Cal and CalFresh participants to maintain eligibility (i.e., engage in employment, education, a work program, volunteering)

	COMMUNITY SERVICE	WORKFARE
Program	**Medi-Cal and CalFresh**	**CalFresh**
Types of Worksites	• Participants can volunteer with any nonprofit organization	• Participants can volunteer at a nonprofit, faith-based organization, or public agency. (Cannot be completed at for-profit organization or employer).
# of Hours & Verification Frequency	• 20 hours weekly, or • 80 hours averaged monthly • Verified at intake and renewal	• Depends on $ amount of monthly CalFresh benefit received per household. • Total household benefit amount / local minimum wage = required work hours. • Verified monthly
Activity Requirements	• May be combined with other qualifying activities, at multiple sites	• Activity must be completed through workfare site

HOW WORKFARE HOURS ARE CALCULATED

- As of July 1, 2026, minimum wage in LA County is **$18.47/hour**
- **Example**: If a household receives CalFresh benefit of $300 per month in July, the # of required hours would be as follows:

  $300/$18.47 = approximately 16 hours per month

MEETING WORK REQUIREMENTS - WORKFARE/COMMUNITY SERVICES

Participants must maintain participation and report completion of work requirements monthly.

Volunteer Activities

- Should ideally provide meaningful experience and support future employment
- Can build on existing engagement/programs

Volunteer Task Examples

- Office, program, and/or event support
- Lived experience feedback and surveys and/or research support
- Remote tasks

Inappropriate Volunteer Tasks

- Handle money or sensitive personal data
- Operate heavy machinery or vehicles

HOST ROLE - BECOMING A WORKSITE WORKFARE/COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Maintain a safe and equitable environment
- Conduct onboarding and training for each volunteer that comes
- Delegate and supervise duties as appropriate
- Develop a regular volunteer work schedule with the participant for as long as they need.
- Provide required materials/tools/uniforms that the participant may need to complete duties (or make the costs known upfront so participants know what to expect).
- Maintain records of completed hours, and submit verification documents as requested (Workfare = monthly verification; Community service = verification during application and renewal process)

SELF-INITIATED OPTION

WHAT IF SOMEONE COMES TO YOUR ORGANIZATION DIRECTLY?

- Participants might independently identify a public or private nonprofit organization where they can complete their volunteer hours.
- Participants are responsible for obtaining monthly verification of their volunteer hours from the nonprofit organization and submitting the verification to DPSS.
- Volunteer hours completed with non-profits, faith-based organizations, and public agencies are still counted as workfare.

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?

- Sign the participant's verification form to confirm workfare eligibility and completion of hours.
- No formal NFA agreement is required between DPSS and the nonprofit organization.
- No additional insurance DPSS requirements

REFERRAL & REVERSE REFERRAL

THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HOST WORKSITES.

REFERRAL BASED

- Best for agencies open to receiving volunteer referrals
- DPSS Resource Guide and website listing
- DPSS will have a process of referring participants to worksites with each enrollment/recertification screening
- Agency NFA with DPSS (future)

REVERSE REFERRAL

- Best for agencies that work with a specific population
- Participants would be your clients/members rather than outside referrals
- Participant would communicate intent to volunteer with your agency to DPSS at the time of enrollment/recertification screening
- Community Partners and DPSS can provide additional communications support so that your agency is engaged with clients/members in advance of their DPSS screening
- Agency NFA with DPSS (future)

PARTNERING WITH DPSS AS WORKSITE

- DPSS is seeking non-financial partnerships with nonprofit organizations to support volunteer opportunities.
- Goal: help participants maintain compliance with work requirements
- Non-financial agreement (NFA) with DPSS covers data sharing
- Worksites must verify completed volunteer hours monthly

TO SUPPORT **PARTICIPANTS**, DPSS WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Screen individuals for exemptions
- Calculate the number of monthly hours for each participant
- Refer non-exempt participants to partnered worksites
- Inform participants of their responsibilities to treat their participation as employment

FOR ALL PARTNERED **WORKSITES**, DPSS WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Provide a worksite handbook
- Hold training session
- Serve as a point of contact, and provide support
- Rollout of a technology platform to streamline the process for verification and referrals

COMMUNITY PARTNERS WORKFARE RESOURCE HUB

Recruitment and Communication

- Share updates through our website
- Host recurring informational sessions
- Email prospective and ongoing host worksite partners

Technical Assistance

- Onboarding with DPSS
- Liaison point of contact for DPSS and host worksites
- Volunteer Management
- Legal Information

Additional Resources

- Flex Funding (TBD)
- Stipends (TBD)
- What added costs do you foresee incurring to support workfare/community service volunteers?

Visit: https://communitypartners.org/laworkfarehub/
Email: laworkfarehub@communitypartners.org

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

NEXT STEPS

Join the Network of Workfare and Community Service Worksites!

Join the Workfare and Community Service Worksite Network

THANK YOU

Every Commitment Helps!

County of Los Angeles dpss DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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