

Unfortunate Update on CalWORKs Match

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Hello, Dr. Viar, Dr. Schlossman, and Dr. Culpepper. I wanted to give you an update on our CalWORKs match issue.

As you may recall, The CalWORKs Association began to work with our advocates to have the 1:1 match language deleted for 20-21. (The CO has given us "hold harmless" status for 19-20.) After Dr. Viar stepped in by advocating for us with the the League, the Chancellor's Office announced they would take on the work of having the match language removed from the budget. Our advocates advised us that it was best to have the CO initiate the change, and then the CalWORKs Association and the League could officially support it.

Over the past few months we have frequently asked the CO for updates on removal of the match from the budget, and they have continually assured us they were "working on it." We looked at the new budget language this week and found that absolutely nothing had been done, and the same match language is still in the budget. We called the CO and were told by Rhonda Mhor and Mia Keeley that their legislative staff dropped the ball and had done nothing.

Here is what we are working towards now:

- Trying to get the match language removed in the "September Cleanup."
- Yesterday Rhonda Mhor sent a request form for legislative revisions to all CSSOs. In her email she mentioned that the CO was still trying to work on a revision for CalWORKs. Our plan is to ask all the CSSOs to submit the form and include the removal of the CalWORKs match language.
- We are working with our lobbyist to meet with key elected officials to help us have the match language removed.
- If we cannot get the match removed this year, we will request a "hold harmless" status for 20-21, especially considering the Chancellor's Office assured us they would work on this, and then did nothing.

Just as a reminder:

- No other program has 1:1 match.
- As the largest CalWORKs Program in the state, GCC has the largest budget, and the most financial burden as a result of the match.
- The 1:1 match puts an undue burden on programs that are serving our most vulnerable students and low-income families.
- The match requires colleges to come up with \$46 million dollars per year.
- The budget language is archaic, put in place eighteen years ago during an extremely politically conservative time in California history.

I have short meetings with Dr. Scholssman and Dr. Viar scheduled for Monday and Thursday, and I hope to have more updates to give you then, but I wanted to give you some background about what happened this week. I appreciate any advice or assistance you can provide.

Thanks so much,
Aarin

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