



May 2, 2012

CWDA

Dear County Director:



The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and the California Workforce Association (CWA) are writing to inform you of critical information that may affect your county. Over the course of the remainder of the calendar year, a large number of Californians will exhaust their unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, and many of these individuals may be eligible for public assistance in your county.

The FED-ED (Federal-State Extended Duration) extension program will end as of May 12, 2012 as a result of the state's unemployment rate falling below the statutory trigger. This will affect an estimated 93,000 individuals who are currently receiving these extended UI benefits. These individuals will receive a notice in the mail during the first week of May informing them that the program is ending.

Furthermore, recent federal legislation requires UI claimants to report to a One-Stop Career Center for an in-person Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (REA) interview as a condition of receiving federal extended benefits. The Employment Development Department (EDD) will administer the REA program and anticipates that 650,000 individuals will be scheduled for these appointments between now and December 31, 2012. The first visits will be scheduled in June 2012.

While the goal of the services is to connect these individuals back into the workforce, we realize that this may not happen immediately. The required visits to the One-Stop Career Centers present a unique opportunity for outreach to those individuals who may not otherwise consider public benefits as an option. To help with outreach, we are including a helpful resource list compiled last year by CWDA and advocates in conjunction with the EDD ("Additional Resources.") You may wish to update it with your local program contact information and make it available in your counties.

If you have not already done so, we recommend that you meet jointly with your EDD, welfare and workforce counterparts in your county. Many areas have already held meetings and are in the process of coordinating outreach and partnering on orientation services and other activities as a way to minimize the use of limited staffing and other resources. Your local EDD Manager will have important information on the numbers of individuals anticipated to be eligible for services in your area. Early joint planning will be critical given the potential numbers of individuals eligible for REA services.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Mecca  
Executive Director  
CWDA

Barbara Halsey  
Executive Director  
CWA