

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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BRYCE YOKOMIZO
Director



June 28, 2004

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

**SUBJECT: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: POSSIBLE MOTION RE: VEHICLE REPAIR
FOR CaWORKs - FINAL STATUS REPORT
(BOARD ORDER #5 - JUNE 23, 2003)**

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On June 23, 2003, your Board instructed my Department to explore with the community colleges, Regional Occupational Centers/Programs (ROC/Ps), adult schools, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) the potential for their auto mechanic students to perform repairs for CaWORKs participants and report our findings and recommendations to your Board.

I provided the Board with a status report on July 31, 2003 in which I reported findings based on limited research due to the closure of schools during the summer months. In that report, I indicated an additional survey would be completed when the schools resumed. Below is a summary of our survey.

In the interim, in April, your Board approved the CaWORKs Stakeholders' recommendation to allocate \$100,000 for the reinstatement of the Vehicle Repair Program for the period of July - September 2004. Then, on June 21, 2004, your Board approved funding for the Vehicle Repair Program for the remainder of FY 04-05, as recommended by the Stakeholders.

Summary of Survey

My staff surveyed additional educational providers regarding the potential utilization of their resources. The following is a summary of our findings:

- Ten of the 43 schools surveyed offer vehicle repairs to the general public:
 - Antelope Valley College
 - Bell Gardens Adult School
 - Cerritos Community College
 - East Los Angeles Occupational Center
 - El Camino College
 - Hacienda La Puente Adult School
 - La Puente ROP
 - LACCD Trade Tech College
 - LAUSD Maxine Waters Employment Preparation Center
 - LAUSD North Valley Occupational Center

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- In the ten schools offering repair programs, labor is provided free of charge; however, car parts must be covered by the car owner.
- Schools have a waiting list for car repairs and decide which vehicles to work on first, based on the problem, number of students in the class and the level of expertise attained by the students and/or curriculum being covered.

Summary of Findings

Based on our research, vehicle repair programs through public schools are not a viable approach to meeting the needs of the entire CaWORKs population due to:

- the limited number of schools offering such programs;
- the potentially large number of participants needing to access these services;
- the long waiting periods to which our participants could be exposed, and
- limited expertise on the type of repairs that could be done.

The schools indicated that giving priority to vehicles of CaWORKs participants is not feasible due to their commitment to other customers. Our CaWORKs participants could be placed on long waiting lists depending on needed vehicle repairs.

Reinstatement of DPSS' Vehicle Repair Program

As noted above, on April 20, 2004 and June 21, 2004, your Board allocated funding to reinstate the Vehicle Repair Program which was terminated on June 30, 2003 due to lack of funding. When your Board adopted the motion instructing DPSS to explore the option of car repairs from educational institutions for CaWORKs participants, we were not allocating any funding for car repairs.

As background, on March 4, 2003, DPSS implemented the Vehicle Repair Program which offered CaWORKs participants up to \$1,000 in benefits (actual amount depends on repair service needed) to cover car repairs diagnosed and completed by mechanic stations approved by Bureau of Automotive Repairs (BAR). Reinstatement of this program on July 1, 2004 should effectively address the vehicle repair needs of CaWORKs participants.

The program will enable participants to have their comprehensive vehicle repair needs addressed, versus only those that the students can handle. Additionally, participants would not have to be placed on waiting lists in order to have their vehicle repaired. We could return to the option of the schools, if we lack sufficient funding in the future to continue paying for vehicle repairs.

BY: mor

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors