

Planning Information Packet

Merced County

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION DIVISION

March 2008

For questions about this report, call (916) 262-2162.

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Table 1
Public Assistance Recipients by Program
2005 - 2007
Merced County

Recipients by Program	July			California
	2005	2006	2007	July 2007
California Work Opportunity and Responsibility To Kids (CalWORKs) (a)	16,324	15,076	14,772	1,021,360
Adults	3,808	3,455	3,445	207,598
Children	12,516	11,621	11,327	813,762
Welfare to Work (b)	3,083	2,862	2,894	170,057
Food Stamps (c)	29,994	30,048	30,977	2,024,807
General Relief	118	141	119	96,575
Refugee Cash Assistance (d)	48	3	0	1,500

Source: California Department of Social Services

To access detailed reports for county comparisons, visit the California Department of Social Services Internet address at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research>
 CalWORKs: see report CA 237; Food Stamps: see report DFA 256;
 General Relief: see report GR 237; Welfare to Work: see reports WTW 25 and WTW 25A.

- (a)** Data include foster care children.
- (b)** With the passage of the Federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 and California's subsequent implementation of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Act (CalWORKs), the requirement for recipients of aid to participate in work related activities increased significantly. This number represents the number of CalWORKs recipients who have been enrolled or have been sent a notice to participate in Welfare to Work activities. These individuals may be required to participate or be willing to participate in these activities.
- (c)** Includes those persons receiving public assistance payments and those not receiving public assistance payments.
- (d)** Refugee Cash Assistance data are for the third quarter and exclude CalWORKs recipients.

Table 2
Public Assistance Recipients (CalWORKs)
Characteristics of Recipients 16 Years and Older
2005 - 2007
Merced County

Characteristics	July			California (c)
	2005	2006	2007	July 2007
Total Recipients 16+ (a) (b)	5,650	5,220	5,120	353,720
Male	1,080	1,000	980	67,730
Female	4,570	4,220	4,140	286,100
16-20	1,190	1,100	1,080	74,620
21-44	4,030	3,720	3,650	252,100
45-54	340	320	310	21,590
55+	90	80	80	5,520
White (Not Hispanic)	n/a	1,260	1,350	84,490
Black (Not Hispanic)	n/a	630	470	67,260
Hispanic	n/a	2,810	2,840	179,260
Asian & Pacific Islander	n/a	490	420	16,920
American Indian	n/a	30	30	3,070
Filipino	n/a	10	10	2,720

(CalWORKs) California Work Opportunity And Responsibility To Kids

Source: California Department of Social Services; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Detailed data by sex, age, and race/ethnicity are extrapolations based on aggregate figures provided by the Department of Social Services.

(b) Detail may not add to total due to independent rounding.

(c) California race/ethnicity totals do not include San Mateo County. Data were not available.

n/a Data not available.

TABLE 3
Workforce Investment Act
Planning Information for Local Workforce Investment Areas

LWIA NAME: Merced
 JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED: Merced County

2000 CENSUS									
Characteristics of Economically Disadvantaged Persons¹									
	Total	0 to 13	14 and 15	16 to 21	22 to 24	25 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 72	73 and older
Total Persons	210,555	56,800	8,035	20,330	8,665	82,315	14,590	9,475	10,350
Poverty Universe²	208,050	55,560	7,905	20,225	8,630	81,880	14,540	9,450	9,860
Persons below Poverty³	45,060	16,205	2,230	5,625	2,230	14,705	2,005	995	1,065
Percent Persons in Poverty	21.7%	29.2%	28.2%	27.8%	25.8%	18.0%	13.8%	10.5%	10.8%
Persons in Poverty, excluding Military and College^{3,5}	44,250	16,205	2,230	5,290	2,115	14,360	1,995	995	1,055
Persons below 70% of LLSIL⁴	55,335	21,480	3,025	6,810	2,515	17,190	1,965	1,135	1,215
Persons below Poverty or 70% of LLSIL^{3,4}	56,765	21,480	3,025	6,955	2,560	17,865	2,255	1,185	1,440
Persons below Poverty or 70% of LLSIL, excluding Military and College^{3,4,5}	55,810	21,480	3,025	6,550	2,440	17,465	2,245	1,175	1,430
Persons in the Civilian Labor Force⁶	86,665	n/a	n/a	9,605	6,080	60,520	7,735	2,050	675
Household Population in the Civilian Labor Force^{6,7}	85,850	n/a	n/a	†	†	†	†	†	†

Characteristics of Various Potential Client Groups

Labor Force Status, 2007⁸

Labor Force	102,200
Employment	91,900
Unemployment	10,300
Unemployment Rate	10.1%
Not in Labor Force⁹	69,600

Adult Probation Active Caseload (as of December, 2006)¹⁰

3,510

Veteran Estimates, 2007¹¹

	Total	17 to 44	45 to 64	65 to 84	85 and older
Total Veterans*	13,770	3,310	5,600	4,250	610
Male	12,790	2,940	5,290	4,110	460
Female	980	370	310	140	150

*Totals may not add due to rounding.

n/a Persons counted as part of the Civilian Labor Force must be at least 16 years old.

† Not available.

TABLE 3
Workforce Investment Act
Planning Information for Local Workforce Investment Areas

Endnotes and Data Sources

¹The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) define the **economically disadvantaged population** as persons below the federal poverty level or below 70% of the Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL).

ETA contracted with a private research firm to tabulate these data from individual responses to the decennial census. Totals may not match published data from the U.S. Bureau of Census. Further information is available through the following Web sites:

www.doleta.gov

www.census.gov

²**Poverty Universe:** The poverty universe is the number of persons for which poverty status is determined. The poverty universe is smaller than the total population because poverty status is not determined for people in institutions, such as prisons or nursing homes; people in military group quarters; people in college dormitories; and, individuals under 15 years old living with non-relatives, such as foster children.

³**Persons below Poverty:** An individual's poverty status is determined by comparing their family income with the federal poverty threshold appropriate for that person's family size and the number of family members under 18 years old. If a person is not living with anyone related by birth, marriage, or adoption, then the person's own income is compared with his or her poverty threshold. Persons in Poverty percent of universe is calculated by dividing the Persons below Poverty by the Poverty Universe.

⁴**Lower Living Standard Income Levels (LLSIL):** The LLSIL determines an individual's eligibility for certain services under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). WIA section 101(24) defines the LLSIL as "that income level (adjusted for regional, metropolitan, urban, and rural differences and family size) determined annually by the Secretary of Labor." In a manner similar to the poverty level, an individual's LLSIL status is determined by comparing their income and family size to the published LLSIL levels.

⁵**Excluding Military and College:** These data exclude persons who are on active duty in the armed forces and college students on in the labor force. The exclusion of such persons is required to comply with WIA definition of funding formula factors.

⁶**Civilian Labor Force** is persons 16 years or older who are "employed," excluding persons in the armed forces and in institutions, or "unemployed." "Unemployed" are persons who were without a job and are actively looking for a job and were available to start a job.

⁷**Household Population** includes all of the people who occupy a housing unit. (People not living in households are classified as living in group quarters.) A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied (or if vacant, intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other people in the building and that have direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated people who share living quarters.

⁸All data in this group are averages of estimates for the 12-month period, January 2007 through December 2007 (preliminary) on the March 2006 benchmark. These data are developed by the California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division (LMID), (916) 262-2162. These data differ from estimates accessible on the LMID Web site because of benchmark revisions released March through June 2008.

Labor force in this category refers to the sum of civilian employment and civilian unemployment. Civilians, as defined, are age 16 years or older, not members of the Armed Services, and are not in institutions such as prisons, mental hospitals, or nursing homes.

Employment includes all individuals who worked at least one hour for a wage or salary, or were self-employed, or were working at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business or on a family farm, during the week including the 12th of the month. Those who were on vacation, on other kinds of leave, or involved in a labor dispute, are counted as employed.

Unemployment includes those individuals who were not working but who were able to work, available to work, and actively looking for work during the week including the 12th of the month. Individuals who were waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days are counted as unemployed.

Unemployment Rate is the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labor force.

⁹**Not in Labor Force:** Official methods by the Bureau of Labor Statistics do not include monthly estimates of persons not in the labor force. The number of persons not in the labor force in this table was derived using 2000 Census data by Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) member cities and counties. Specifically, the official current estimate of labor force is divided by the Census estimate of labor force participation rates estimates for the total working-aged population. Total working-aged population less the number of persons in the labor force equals the number of persons not in the labor force.

¹⁰**Adult Probation Active Caseload:** Adults on probation are under county supervision. As a result, data are not available regarding the distribution of adults on probation within a county. For LWIAs that do not include an entire county or counties, caseload was distributed among cities according to each city's share of adult arrests for felonies and misdemeanors in 2006, the most recent year for which data are available. Source of data: California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Justice Statistics Center (on-line at: www.ag.ca.gov/cjsc).

¹¹Data provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veteran Population Projections for 2007 (VetPop2007), county-level estimates for September 2007. Data are located on-line at www.va.gov.

Note: All data provided are the most recent available at the time of publication.

**Table 4
Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL)
and Poverty Guidelines
2007**

Table 1 — San Diego Metropolitan Statistical Area

LWIAs	San Diego Consortium						
	Family Size						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Each Additional Add
70% LLSIL (a)							
Annual	\$10,080	\$16,520	\$22,680	\$27,990	\$33,030	\$38,630	\$5,600
6 Months	\$5,040	\$8,260	\$11,340	\$13,995	\$16,515	\$19,315	\$2,800
100%	\$14,400	\$23,590	\$32,390	\$39,980	\$47,180	\$55,180	\$8,000
Poverty Guidelines (a)							
Annual	\$10,210	\$13,690	\$17,170	\$20,650	\$24,130	\$27,610	\$3,480
6 Months	\$5,105	\$6,845	\$8,585	\$10,325	\$12,065	\$13,805	\$1,740

Table 2 — Los Angeles/Riverside/Orange County Metropolitan Statistical Area

LWIAs	San Diego Consortium						
	Family Size						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Each Additional Add
70% LLSIL (a)							
Annual	\$9,380	\$15,370	\$21,110	\$26,050	\$30,740	\$35,950	\$5,210
6 Months	\$4,690	\$7,685	\$10,555	\$13,025	\$15,370	\$17,975	\$2,605
100%	\$13,400	\$21,960	\$30,150	\$37,220	\$43,920	\$51,370	\$7,450
Poverty Guidelines (a)							
Annual	\$10,210	\$13,690	\$17,170	\$20,650	\$24,130	\$27,610	\$3,480
6 Months	\$5,105	\$6,845	\$8,585	\$10,325	\$12,065	\$13,805	\$1,740

**Table 4
Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL)
and Poverty Guidelines
2007**

Table 3 — San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose Metropolitan Statistical Area

Alameda County	Oakland City	Santa Cruz County
Contra Costa County	Richmond City	Solano County
Marin County	San Francisco City/Co.	Sonoma County
Napa County	San Jose/Silicon Valley	
NOVA Consortium	San Mateo County	

Family Size

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Each Additional Add
70% LLSIL (a)							
Annual	\$9,450	\$15,490	\$21,260	\$26,240	\$30,970	\$36,220	\$5,250
6 Months	\$4,725	\$7,745	\$10,630	\$13,120	\$15,485	\$18,110	\$2,625
100%	\$13,500	\$22,120	\$30,360	\$37,480	\$44,230	\$51,730	\$7,500
Poverty Guidelines (a)							
Annual	\$10,210	\$13,690	\$17,170	\$20,650	\$24,130	\$27,610	\$3,480
6 Months	\$5,105	\$6,845	\$8,585	\$10,325	\$12,065	\$13,805	\$1,740

Table 4 — Metropolitan Areas

Fresno County	Monterey County	Stanislaus County
Golden Sierra Consortium	NoRTEC Consortium	Tulare County
Imperial County	North Central Consortium	Yolo County
Kern/Inyo/Mono Consortium	Sacramento City/Co.	
Kings County	San Joaquin County	
Madera County	San Luis Obispo County	
Merced County	Santa Barbara County	

Family Size

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Each Additional Add
70% LLSIL (a)							
Annual	\$8,880	\$14,550	\$19,980	\$24,660	\$29,100	\$34,040	\$4,940
6 Months	\$4,440	\$7,275	\$9,990	\$12,330	\$14,550	\$17,020	\$2,470
100%	\$12,680	\$20,780	\$28,530	\$35,220	\$41,560	\$48,610	\$7,050
Poverty Guidelines (a)							
Annual	\$10,210	\$13,690	\$17,170	\$20,650	\$24,130	\$27,610	\$3,480
6 Months	\$5,105	\$6,845	\$8,585	\$10,325	\$12,065	\$13,805	\$1,740

**Table 4
Lower Living Standard Income Level (LLSIL)
and Poverty Guidelines
2007**

Table 5 — Nonmetropolitan Areas

Humboldt County		Mother Lode Consortium					
Mendocino County		San Benito County					
Family Size							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Each Additional Add
70% LLSIL (a)							
Annual	\$8,590	\$14,080	\$19,330	\$23,860	\$28,160	\$32,930	\$4,770
6 Months	\$4,280	\$7,040	\$9,665	\$11,930	\$14,080	\$16,465	\$2,385
100%	\$12,270	\$20,110	\$27,610	\$34,080	\$40,220	\$47,400	\$6,820
Poverty Guidelines (a)							
Annual	\$10,210	\$13,690	\$17,170	\$20,650	\$24,130	\$27,610	\$3,480
6 Months	\$5,105	\$6,845	\$8,585	\$10,325	\$12,065	\$13,805	\$1,740

Source: State of California, Workforce Services Division, Workforce Investment Act Directive (WIAD06-22, June 29, 2007)

(a) Tables 1 through 5 show the 70 percent LLSIL and the poverty guidelines for western metropolitan a nonmetropolitan areas, and for three specific Metropolitan Statistical Areas in California. In addition, each LLSIL table includes the 100 percent LLSIL that establishes the Department of Labor's minimum self-sufficiency levels. Each table specifies which areas encompass which Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA). For a family of one, in all tables, the poverty guidelines exceed the 70 percent LLSIL and, therefore, should be used to establish the low-income status. For all other family sizes, the LLSILs exceed the poverty guidelines. The last column in each table shows the amount to be added to the figure for a family of six for each additional family member.