



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2005

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COUNTY CELEBRATES SUBSTANTIAL WELFARE TO WORK SUCCESSES *Employers and Trainers Lauded for Moving CalWORKs Clients to Self Sufficiency*

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) and its CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work case management providers will host five recognition events around the county to acknowledge and thank local businesses and community partners for their collaborative efforts in helping public assistance recipients find and keep employment.

“Our County has one of the best records in the state for helping welfare clients transition from public assistance to finding and keeping employment,” said Pam Slater-Price, Chairwoman of the County Board of Supervisors. “We could not have accomplished this without the members of the business community who hire and train former welfare recipients, and for that we are grateful.”

Since federal welfare reform legislation passed in 1997, San Diego County welfare rolls have declined by more than 63 percent, the highest caseload reduction for any large county in the state. Today there are approximately 23,000 families receiving CalWORKs (welfare) benefits among the more than three million residents of San Diego County. In order to qualify for cash aid through CalWORKs, recipients have to work or commit to 32 hours each week of job seeking activities, including training and actively interviewing for positions.

“Not every employer is willing to take a risk by hiring an adult who has never worked before,” said Jean Shepard, HHSA Director. “We really appreciate those employers who took that risk and brought on some really stellar employees. It takes government and the private sector working together – colleges, trainers, job counselors, case managers, and of course the businesses that hire former welfare recipients – to make San Diego County a great place to live, to work and to find work.”

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Editors Note: Media are welcome to attend recognition events. A list of events is attached.



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Welfare to Work Business and Community Partner Recognition Events

Tuesday, May 24 - 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Chula Vista Golf Course - 4475 Bonita Rd, Bonita, CA 91902

Wednesday, May 25 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Paradise Point and Resort - 1404 Vacation Rd, San Diego, CA 92109

Wednesday, May 25 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Singing Hills Golf Course - 3007 Dehesa Rd, El Cajon, CA 92019

Thursday, May 26 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hilton Inn, Carlsbad - 6450 Carlsbad Blvd, Carlsbad, CA 92009

Wednesday, June 8 - 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

California Center for the Arts - 340 North Escondido Blvd, Escondido 92025