

Myths about Welfare and SNAP (Food Stamps) that many Americans Believe

Myth: Welfare payments are very high

Fact: A single mother on welfare with one child receives \$537.00 dollars per month

Fact: The average rental price according to the San Diego Union Tribune is \$1800.00 for a one bedroom apartment \$117.04 for utilities.

Myth: People receiving food stamps eat steak and lobster every day

Fact: A Single mother with one child is allotted \$2.10 per meal per person

Fact: According to the California Budget & Policy Center Californians spend an average of \$3.43 per meal per person

Myth: School based welfare programs do not work

Fact: A study cited in the Atlantic monitored 158 mothers on welfare who received a four year degree. Not one mother returned to any of the public services (SNAP, Welfare, MediCAL)

Myth: People getting welfare/assistance are lazy

Fact: Since 1999 welfare recipients have had to work or go to school at least 30 hours per week

Myth: Everyone who gets SNAP (food stamps) is unemployed

Fact: 44 percent of SNAP (food stamps) recipients have one member of the household working full-time

Myth: Undocumented Immigrants can get welfare

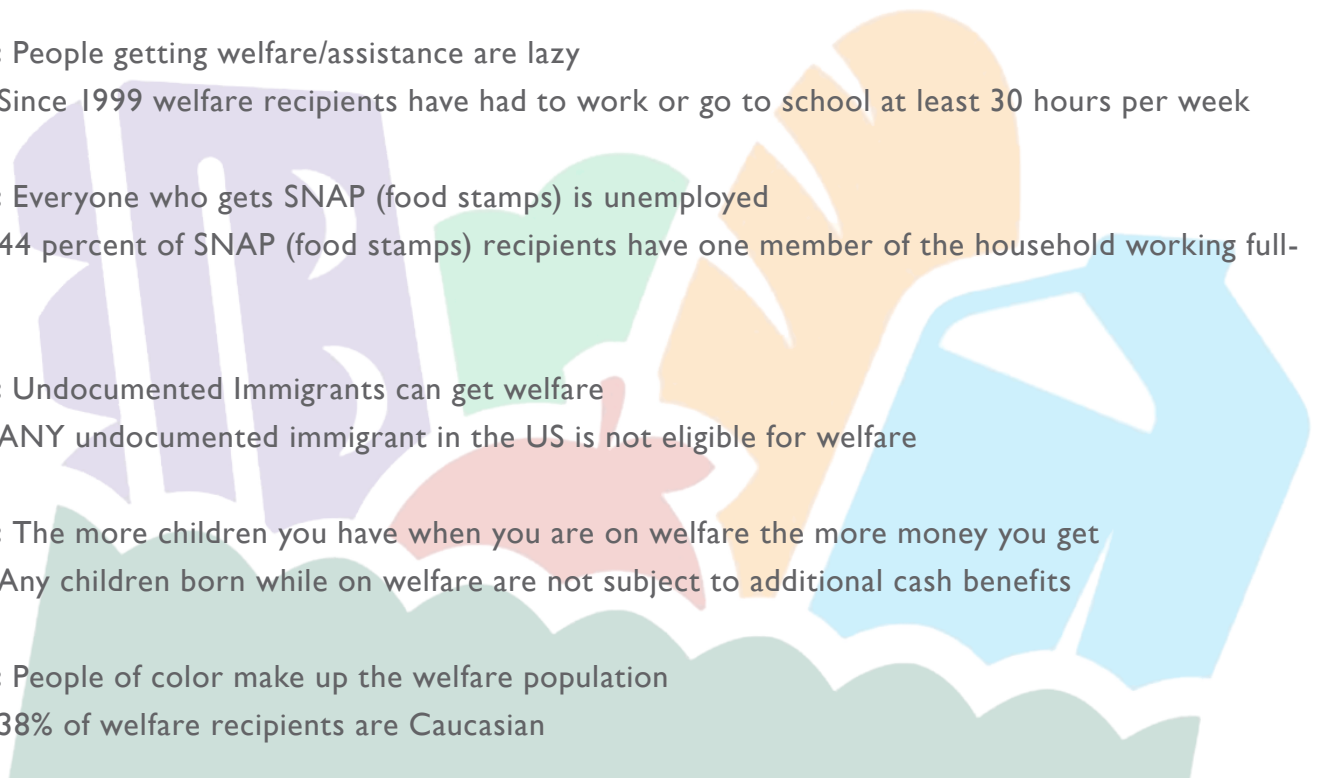
Fact: ANY undocumented immigrant in the US is not eligible for welfare

Myth: The more children you have when you are on welfare the more money you get

Fact: Any children born while on welfare are not subject to additional cash benefits

Myth: People of color make up the welfare population

Fact: 38% of welfare recipients are Caucasian



Grossmont College and Community

Greetings, I hope this finds you well. In this newsletter we will spotlight some of our incredible students, share important news from the CalWORKs area both locally and nationally and continue to weaken the stigma of poverty.

This summer was a busy one for CalWORKs serving well over 700 students. The team worked so hard to help students and their families. At the close of the summer we took some time out to share the beautiful weather and celebrate a job well done.

These first weeks of fall have been busy, and wonderful work has been done by counselors and staff. Recently, we held our second annual retreat to review county changes and connect.

I am fortunate to do this work with an incredible team and I continue to be humbled by their dedication and selflessness. I wish you a wonderful fall.

Gabrielle Gosselin
Coordinator/Counselor, CalWORKs



Upcoming CalWORKs Events

Nov 17th Basket Brigade of San Diego
Providing Thanksgiving meals to needy families

Dec 15th CalWORKs Holiday Event
Serving students and their family holiday meals and gifts



Be Part of A Student Success Story

Donate to Our Foundation
foundation.gccd.edu/donate/

Your Donations Help With
Scholarships
Food for Hungry Students
Basket Brigade
Holiday Event

For More Information
Stop by our offices located at
Building 60, Room #125

CalWORKs Club: Supporting Students and Their Families

First I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of our students, community and college. The purpose of our CalWORKs Club is to support students who are striving to create a better future by pushing to achieve their academic goals.

CalWORKs club provides productive activities for students and their families by collaborating and promoting advocacy with our college and community partners. This acts as a platform for students with similar circumstances to come together as a community to support one another as we go on our educational journey.

I am very proud of all the hard work our committee has been doing. We are currently fundraising for our annual holiday party supporting our parent students and their families.

In November we will be partnering with the Anthony Robins Foundation for their Basket Brigade. We will help assemble and distribute over two hundred baskets to families so that they may have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

We continue to seek charitable contributions from organizations who partner with our club to help students facing poverty overcome a variety of aspects of the poverty trap.

Amy Alvarado
President, CalWORKS Club



I Am On Welfare But I Am Still An American

There was the working mother of three girls who fell silent as her daughter asked, “Mom, are they going to kill you?”

There was the teenager who feared she would be left to care for her three younger siblings after watching her mother frantically hide her family during the investigator’s visit.

And there was the homeless mother of two who was denied benefits until she was forced to confront her abusive stepfather.

These stories — of unannounced, warrantless home searches — provide a brief glimpse into the harrowing experiences impoverished parents and individuals have gone through when applying for public assistance in San Diego.

Project 100%, a program launched in 1997 and currently managed by the San Diego County’s Department of Child Support Services, employs investigators to go into the homes of potential welfare recipients in order to further verify eligibility for government aid.

A lawyer with 22 years of experience fighting for the rights of low-income individuals and welfare recipients, Joni Halpern believes sole purpose of Project 100% is to falsely unearth evidence of fraud.

“You passed all the verification requirements. You overcame all the obstacles. You did the face-to-face interviews. You showed up with all your documents. They checked all the databases. And you came out eligible for this meager little bit of public assistance,” said Halpern. “And Project 100% said, ‘We’re not finished with you yet.’”

In some cases, people feel as if they are on house arrest, unable to leave their homes if the investigator comes knocking. Halpern said, “I have heard of parents who said they missed their classes; they were late picking up their kids ... because they were afraid of missing the investigator and they needed the aid so badly.”

“[The search] was not being done by a social worker. It was being done by a fraud investigator who is charged with the work of finding fraud. It wasn’t about rehabilitating anyone from poverty,” said Halpern.

“When you do well, I do better. When we feed the kids properly and we educate the kids properly, and we let their parents develop skills they might not have had, we lift ourselves up as a country. I don’t know how it is that we ever forgot that ... Until now, we’re shouting at each other and pointing fingers at each other, and hating each other and hating the poor. Why? What good has that ever done our country?”

To read the remainder of this article, or learn more about welfare, snap or the project 100 rule, see the following articles:

“I Am on Welfare But I Am Still an American” goo.gl/GXd4VL

“Oh My God-We’re On Welfare” goo.gl/kN18Kv

“Project 100%: History, Problems, and Your Rights” goo.gl/VggezH

Enter Monthly to Win a Gift Basket

Now through December

Keep a look out for CalWORKs Staff selling opportunity drawing tickets-or stop by our office and buy a \$1 ticket.

Gift Baskets Valued at \$200 each.

Would make a great gift for holidays or birthday!



Grossmont College CalWORKs

A CULTURE OF *Caring*

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Associate Dean,
EOPS/CalWORKs/CARE



Gabrielle Gosselin
Program Coordinator/
Counselor



Gerardette Nutt
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