Are you a parent with a prior drug offense?

You may now be eligible for CalWORKs?

Starting April 1, 2015, California’s law for CalWORKs has changed.

- If you are complying with your probation or parole, or have completed probation or parole, you will now be eligible for CalWORKs – even if you have a past drug-related felony conviction.

- Parents who have not been eligible for CalWORKs benefits or employment assistance in the past due to a drug-related conviction will now be eligible, as long as they are complying with the terms of their probation or parole or have completed probation or parole.

- Families who have received fewer CalFresh benefits because one or more adult in the household has a prior felony conviction will now be eligible for more CalFresh benefits as long as those with felony convictions are complying with the terms of their probation or parole or have completed probation or parole.

- Children who have been denied CalWORKs child care due to their parent’s prior drug-related felony conviction will now be eligible to receive child care through CalWORKs Stage One, Two or Three.

If you are a parent in a CalWORKs family, you should receive information from your county worker about what you will need to do in order to be eligible for benefit under the new rules before March, 2014.

You may not have to wait until April to receive benefits.

Voters approved Proposition 47 in November, which allows Californians to reclassify certain drug-related felony convictions to a misdemeanor. If your felony conviction(s) is reclassified, you will no longer be banned from CalFresh and can apply immediately. For information about reclassification of a felony, we recommend: http://www.safeandjust.org/recordchange

For more information about CalWORKs rules, go to: http://www.cdss.ca.gov/calworks/