

Welcome to the 2024 Southern Regional Meeting

December 4, 2024

9:00 am – 12:30 pm



The CFPIC Linkages Team



Linkages Program Director
Danna Fabella



CFPIC Associate Director
Melissa Connelly



Linkages Program Associate
Andrea Lewis

Housekeeping

- Please have your camera ON whenever possible
- Make sure you are MUTED if you are not talking
- Change your screen name to include your first name, last name, and county

Thank You!

Today's Agenda

Introductions/Ice Breaker

Developing Linkages Champions (Leadership and Staff)

Training New Hires

Leveraging Resources

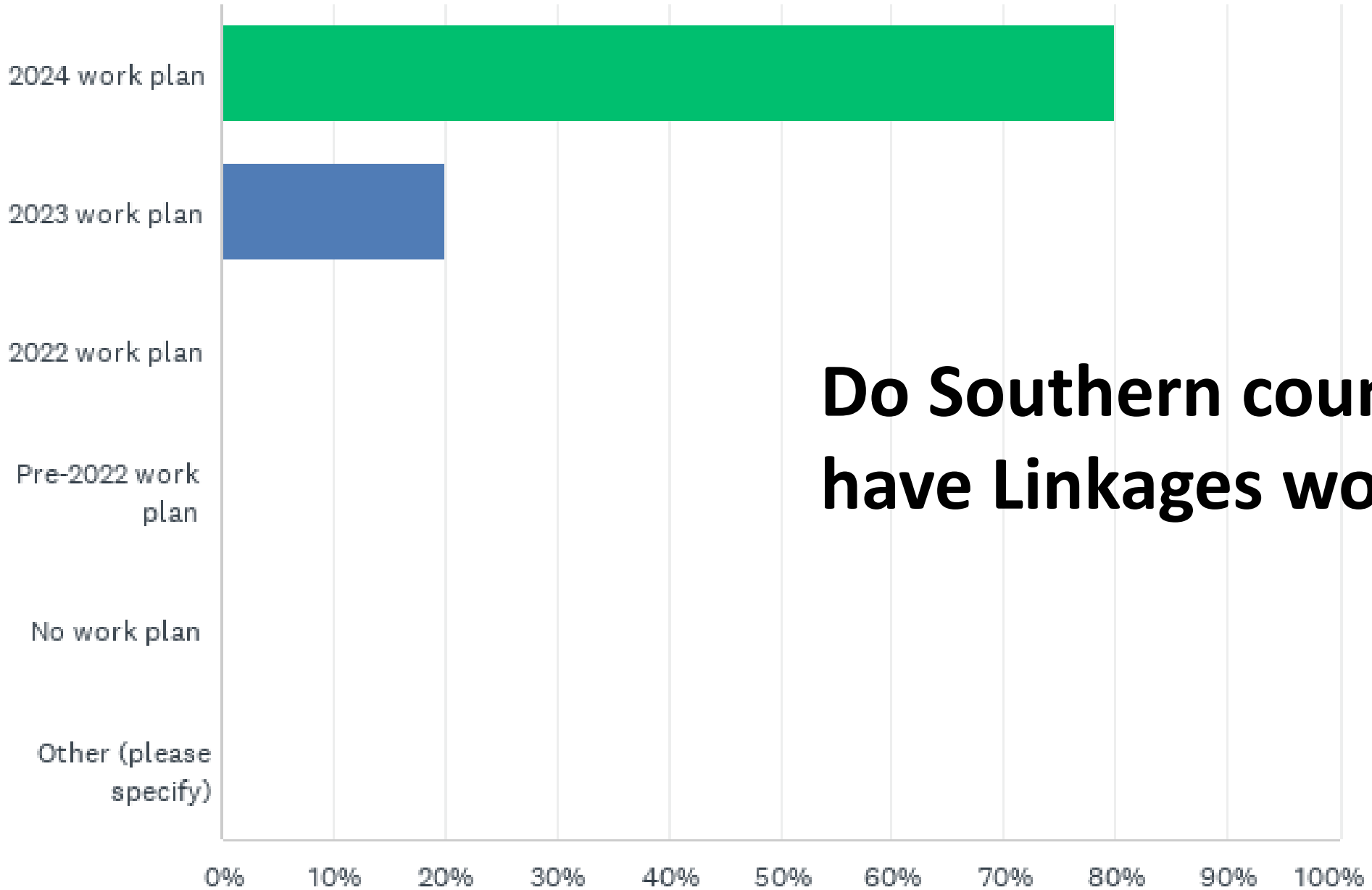
AB 135: CalWORKs Family Reunification (Cash Aid)

Closing with Exit/Planning Survey



Please share:

- Name
- County
- Program
- Linkages Role
- What's one fun thing you plan to do over the holiday break?



**Do Southern counties
have Linkages work plans?**

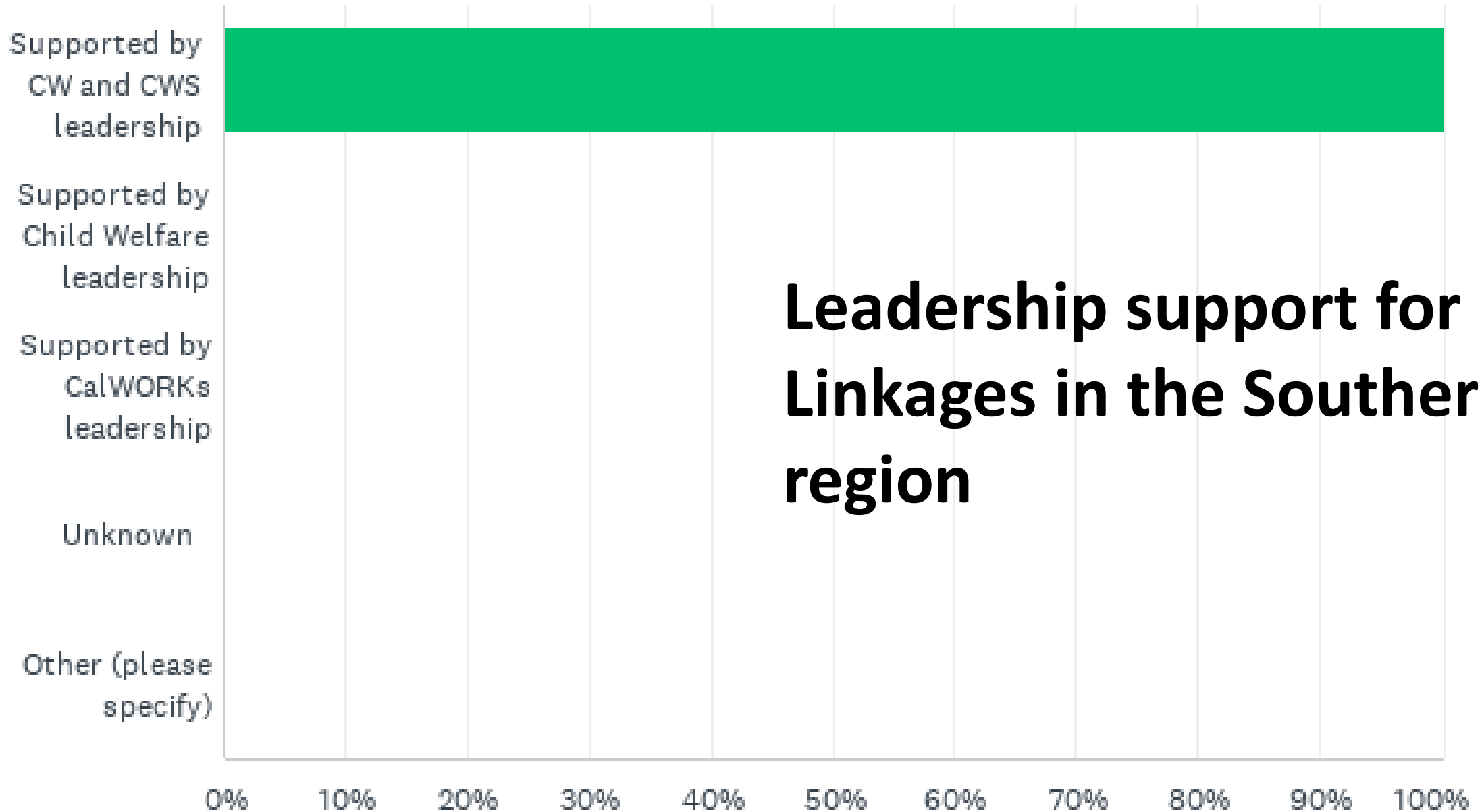
Top Three Challenges Reported by Southern Counties

**Turnover/Staffing
Challenges
(100%)**

**Preparing for AB135
(75%)**

- **Staff/Supervisor Buy-In (50%)**
- **Prevention (50%)**
- **Maximizing Funding (50%)**

Strategies for Developing Linkages Champions: Leadership & Staff



Leadership support for Linkages in the Southern region



Room 1:

- Building Leadership Champions facilitated by Gloria Rojas-Jakini, LA (CW)

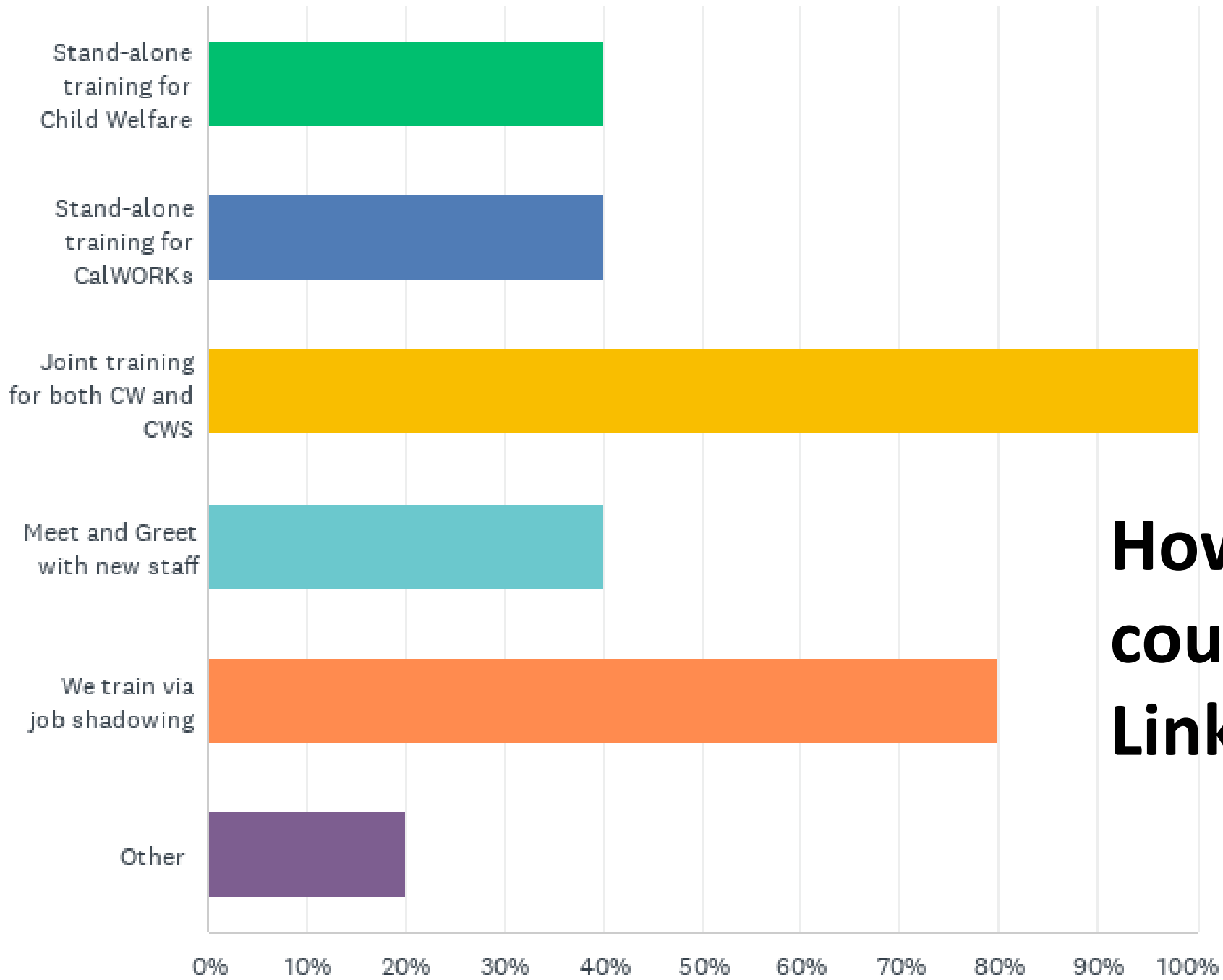
Room 2:

- Building Staff Champions facilitated by Lisa Duran, Riverside (WTW)

Share!



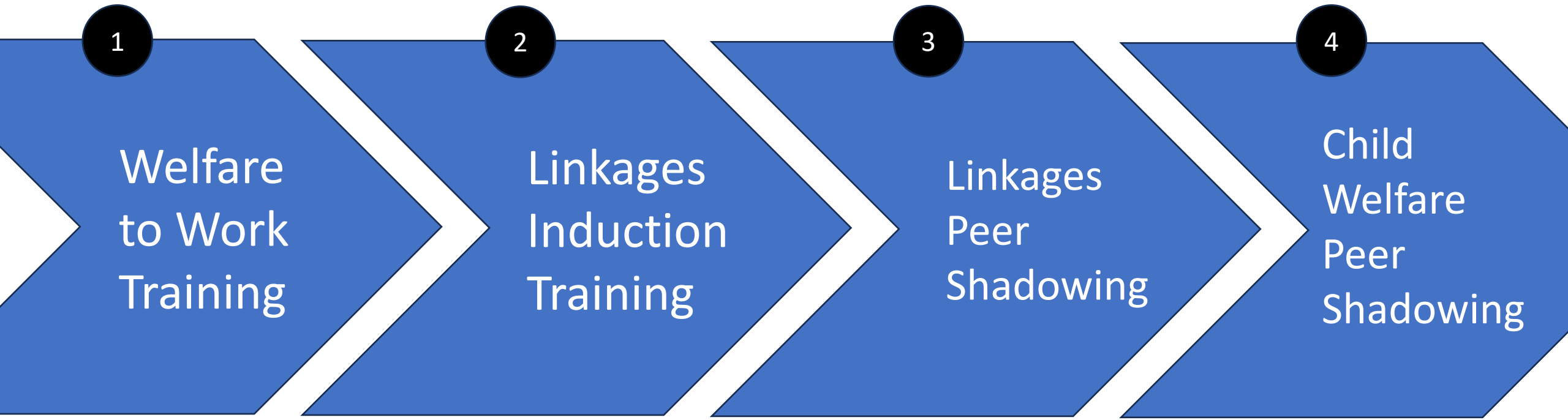
Training New Hires



How do Southern counties conduct Linkages Training?

Imperial
County
Training
Yvette
Valenzuela
(WTW)





CalSAWS

CWS/CMS

Linkages

Child Welfare SW

PENDING:

Child Welfare SW Shadow
Linkages Unit

Linkages Training for All Staff
(Eligibility, Child Welfare, WTW)



Orange County
Training
Jacqueline
Jimenez

Building Linkages Knowledge in Orange County

New Hire Linkages Training

- Social Worker Induction Training (SWIT)
- Eligibility – Intensive Induction Training
- Mentorship

Crossover Training: Social Workers and Linkages Team

- Shadowing
- Safety Organized Practice
- Motivational Interviewing
- Conferences

Roadshows

- Tailored to Partners
 - Child Welfare
 - CalWORKs
 - General Relief

A photograph of a diverse group of people in a bright, indoor setting. In the foreground, a woman with dark, curly hair is smiling broadly and has her right hand raised, pointing upwards. She is wearing a light-colored top with a small, dark pattern. In the background, other people are visible, some with their hands raised, suggesting a celebratory or interactive event. The overall atmosphere is positive and energetic.

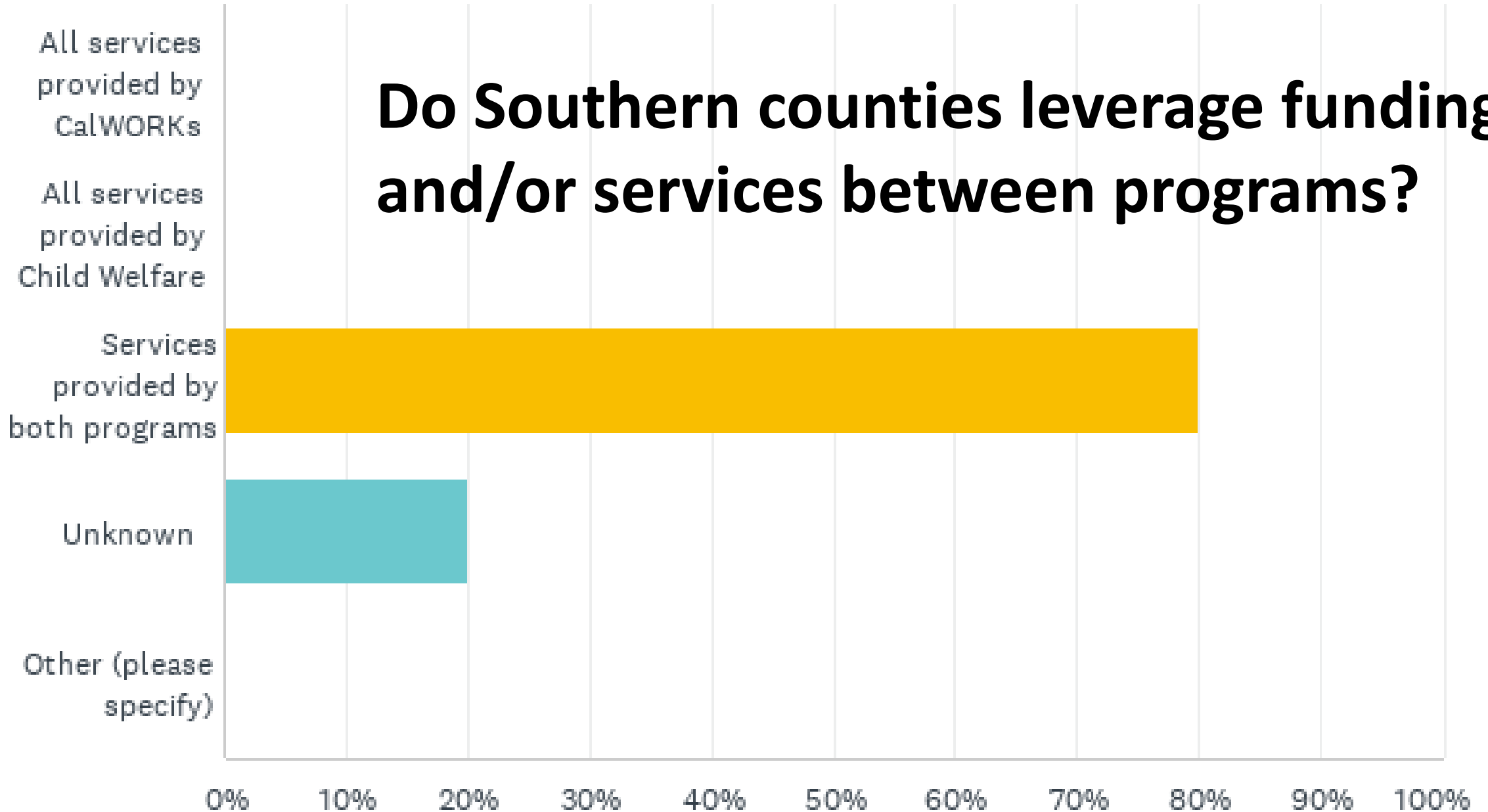
Questions?



BREAK

Leveraging Resources

Do Southern counties leverage funding and/or services between programs?



Riverside County Leveraging Resources Felix Minjarez (WTW)



A photograph of two women sitting at a table in an office environment. The woman on the left has dark hair pulled back and is wearing a light blue button-down shirt, looking towards the other woman. The woman on the right has curly hair and is wearing a grey sweater, gesturing with her hands as if speaking. The background shows a window with a grid pattern. The word "Conversation" is overlaid in white text in the center of the image.

Conversation



AB 135
CalWORKs
Family
Reunification

Eligibility for CalWORKs Family Reunification (CWFR)

- All CalWORKs-eligible children were removed from the home and temporarily placed in out-of-home care.
- The family was receiving CalWORKs cash aid when the child(ren) was removed.
- CWS or a court has determined that the provision of cash aid, childcare, and/or reunification services is necessary for reunification, and a reunification plan is in development and/or in effect.



Assembly Bill 135 & CWFR Policy Changes

AB 135 (Chapter 85,
Statutes of 2021):



Amended Welfare
and Institutions
Code (WIC) Section
11203



Allows reunification
parents who were
receiving aid when
the child was
removed to also be
eligible **to receive
cash aid and child
care services** if the
county has
determined that
they are necessary
for reunification



Increases the
temporary absence
period from up to
180 consecutive
days to up to 6
months.

MPP Section 82-812.671:

The CWS **OR** court has determined that the provision of cash aid, childcare, and/or reunification services is necessary for reunification and a reunification plan is in effect

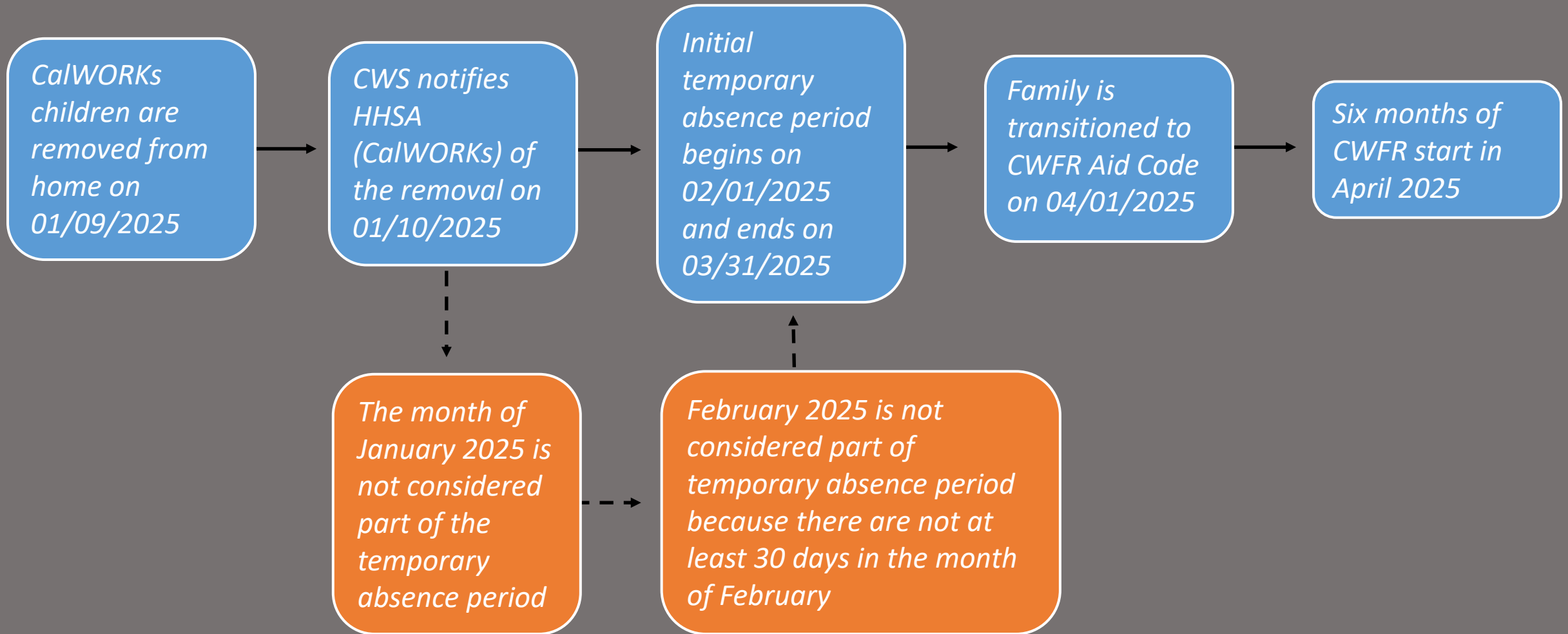
Upon notification that CWS **OR** a court recommends FR and the reunification plan includes a recommendation for the provision of cash aid as necessary to support reunification, the CalWORKs worker must start FR in accordance with the reunification plan and continue the CalWORKs cash grant for a maximum of six months if the family is otherwise eligible. A court order is not necessary to initiate FR. Existing reunification plans that do not already include a recommendation for the provision of cash aid must be amended prior to cash aid approval.

Initial Temporary Absence Period

When all CalWORKs eligible children are removed from the home by the CWS agency:

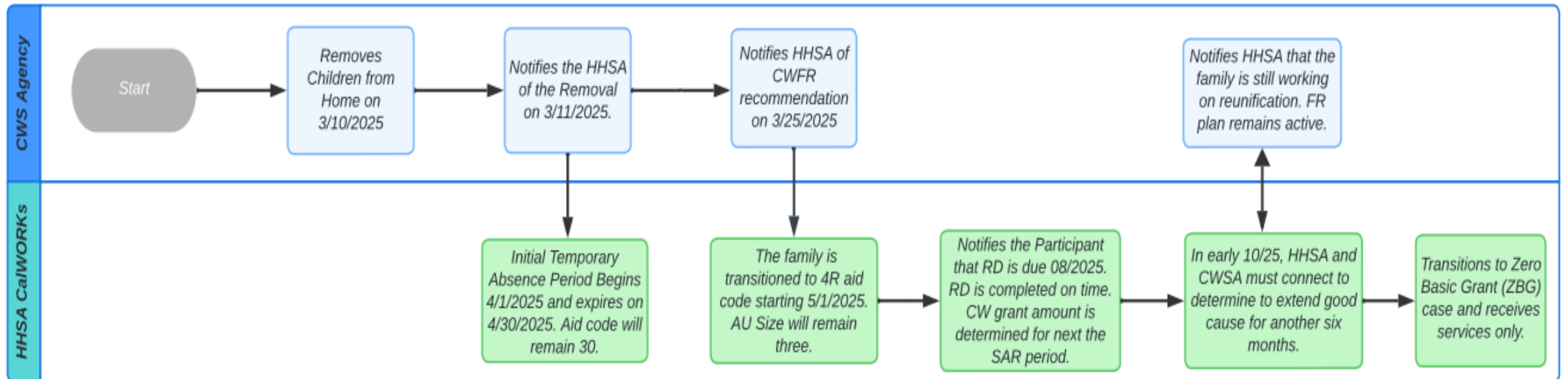
1. The children will be considered temporary absent for one full month. The family will not be discontinued.
2. The CWS agency should provide a notification to the HHSA on whether CWFR will be recommended before the end of the initial temporary absence period.
3. If the family is recommended for CWFR, the HHSA will transition the family to CWFR after temporary absence period has ended.
4. If HHSA receives notification that there will not be a recommendation for CWFR or does not receive a notification, then the family is discontinued from CalWORKs.

Initial Temporary Absence Period - Visual



Process Map for CWFR Cash Aid

- CW Family Composition: 3 (1 Parent + 2 Children)
- Current Aid Code: 30
- RD Due: August 2025



CWS FR Case Plan vs. WTW Plan

CWS FR Case Plan

- Families will not be subject to WTW noncompliance rules and risk financial sanctions.
- Minimizes conflicting requirements between WTW, child welfare, and families.
- Recognizes balancing work, training, and responsibilities can be challenging.

WTW Plan

- Must be used when providing additional activities and services not included in the case plan (i.e., education).
- Eases transition to WTW post-reunification.

CWS Case Plan Requirements

Welfare and Institutions Code 16501.1

Reasonable services, or active efforts, in the case of an Indian child, for family reunification must be documented unless the juvenile court determines otherwise.

CWS Case Plan Requirements

Per Division 31-206 to 225:

- The case plan goal
- Any changes in
 - Treatment services
 - Treatment providers
 - Changes in placement
- A description of the parent/guardian compliance with the written case plan
- Cooperation in keeping appointments

Create CWS Case Plan CWFR in CWS/CMS

1. Create a new case

2. Select "Other service Objective"

3. Enter "Child care for trial home visits" and "Cash aid for basic needs"

	Participant	Service Objective Type	Projected Completion Date
1	Benjamin(17)	Complete homework	06/06/2025
2	Benjamin(17)	Other Service Objective	06/06/2025

Participants

1	J. Benjamin(17)
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Projected Completion Date

Check to select all participants

Date: 06/06/2025

Go to View by Participant

Service Objective

Other Service Objective

Service Objective Detail

Other Service Objective (up to 5)

Additional Description for Participant

Child care for trial home visits
Cash Aid for basic needs

Ready Case [C, Benjamin] -> Case Plan [In Progress]

Update CWS Case Plan in CWS/CMS

1. Open Existing Case Plan

2. Go to Service Objectives page

3. Add "Good cause granted to extend six-month temporary absence to meet reunification plan."

4. Click to update the plan

OK - Go to Update

ID	Participant	Service Objective Type	Projected Completion Date
1	J, Benjamin(17)	Other Service Objective	06/06/2025

Additional Description for Participant
Child care for trial home visits
Cash Aid for basic needs

Progress (for Case Plan Update)
Good cause granted to extend six-month temporary absence to meet the reunification plan.

Projected Completion Date
 Check to select all participants
Date: 06/06/2025

Service Objective
Other Service Objective

Service Objective Detail
Other Service Objective (up to 5)

All Service Objectives Met/Progress recorded. Continue with Update

Ready Case [C. Benjamin] -> Case Plan [In Effect]

CWFR Best Practices

- Notify the CalWORKs worker as soon as possible to ensure timely transition to cash aid and services
- Assess the family strengths, needs and goals regarding services needed to begin CalWORKs FR.
- Coordinate services and resources with the CalWORKs partners to reduce stress and eliminate contradicting plans and goals.
- Team with the CalWORKs worker to monitor the case plan to achieve reunification and identify any extra barriers.
- Reach out to CDSS with questions using the resource document.
- Partner with CFPIC for implementation resources

Conversation



Poll!



What's Next?





Thank You