



CalWORKs Program Fact Sheet

CalWORKs Overview & Program Administration

The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids, also known as CalWORKs, is California's version of the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. CalWORKs is a public assistance program that provides temporary cash assistance and services to eligible families with minor children in the home to meet their basic family needs. Components of CalWORKs include time limits on eligibility, work requirements, supportive services to encourage program participation, and parental responsibility. The CalWORKs program is administered by our San Mateo County Human Services Agency offices under California Department of Social Services (CDSS) State regulations.

Families that apply and qualify for ongoing assistance receive benefits each month via an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card or direct deposit to help pay for housing, food, and other necessary expenses. Families are also linked to Child Support Services, to ensure that children obtain the financial support they need and deserve.

CalWORKs Eligibility

Families must meet income and asset tests and children must be deprived of parental support and care due to the incapacity, death, absence of a parent, or unemployment of the principal wage earner.

Basic Factors of CalWORKs eligibility include:

- A family with a child(ren) under the age of 18
- A pregnant Individual at any stage of pregnancy
- Resident of California
- An individual/family who meets the income and property limits.
- An individual/family who is a citizen or meets the immigration requirements

Technical Factors of CalWORKs eligibility include:

- Providing/applying for a Social Security Number (SSN)
- Applying for all sources of other potential benefits/income
- Cooperating with Local Child Support Agency (LCSA)
- Presenting a form of photo identification

I am not a U.S. Citizen. Am I eligible for CalWORKs?

You may be eligible if you are a *qualified* immigrant. This includes lawful permanent residents (those who hold a 'green card', those with refugee or asylum status, conditional entrants, people granted withholding of deportation or removal, Cuban/Haitian entrants, and certain victims of domestic violence. Victims of human trafficking (applicants for and holders of a "T" visa), and applicants for and holders of a "U" visa may also be eligible.

- Your immigration status is only used to check whether you are eligible for CalWORKs.
- Immigrants with sponsors may qualify for CalWORKs, depending on sponsors income and resources.
- If you are *not* eligible, your children may still be eligible. You may apply for your children under the age 18, if they were born in the U.S. or have legal residency in the U.S. You may still need to show proof of income and resources to determine eligibility.

Example 1: A married undocumented couple is applying for CalWORKs with their 2 US born children ages 5 and 7. Due to the couple having a non-qualified immigration status, only the 2 US born children will be eligible to receive a CalWORKs grant payment. The married couple is still responsible to comply with all program requirements.

Example 2: A legal permanent resident (LPR) mother is applying for CalWORKs with her LPR child aged 10. Both mother and child would be eligible for CalWORKs if all program requirements are met. Note: If individuals are sponsored, a family may be subject to add the income/resources of the sponsor/s to determine the eligibility.

Please contact your local Human Services Agency office for more information.

Work Requirement

Welfare-to-Work (WTW) is a comprehensive statewide employment program designed to enable participants to achieve self-sufficiency through education and employment. CalWORKs recipients who are *not* exempt from participation must participate in the Welfare-to-Work Program. Welfare-to-Work participants may be eligible for supportive services such as childcare, ancillary expenses and transportation.

Program Time Limits

The CalWORKs program is California's state-funded TANF program which imposes a 60-month time limit on the receipt of cash assistance for the parent or caretaker relative of an aided child. When individuals have reached their 60-month time limit, additional months of aid may be provided to the adult when all parents, aided stepparents, and/or caretaker relatives residing in the home of the aided child(ren) meet certain conditions such as but not limited to:

- 60 years of age or older
- Providing care of ill or incapacitated person
- Non-parent providing care of a child.
- Disabled
- Unable to maintain employment or participate in Welfare-to-Work Activities
- Unaided

Income Limits for Applicants

Income is considered when determining CalWORKs eligibility. Income includes things such as, earnings from a job, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, self-employment income, retirement benefits, interest income, child or spousal support, and other means of income or support. Income amounts are based on gross monthly earnings and compared to the Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Case (MBSAC). CalWORKs regulations provide a gross income limit that is determined by subtracting \$450 from the reported earned income of each applicable individual then adding the remaining earned & unearned income to determine the gross income for the family.

Assistant Unit	MBSAC
1	\$963
2	\$1,581
3	\$1,960
4	\$2,325
5	\$2,653
6	\$2,983
7	\$3,280
8	\$3,569
9	\$3,872
10	\$4,202
Each Additional Person	Add \$37

PROPERTY Limits

Property is a factor in determining eligibility for CalWORKs. Property such as cash, bank accounts or a car are used to evaluate the eligibility of the Assistance Unit (AU). The property of a child and the parent(s) must be under the following limits:

- \$18,829 for families when at least one member is disabled OR age 60 or older
- \$12,552 for families without elderly or disabled members

I'm in another program, can I receive CalWORKs?	If you are enrolled in one of the following programs, your family may also qualify for CalWORKs: • CalFresh • Medi-Cal • SSI/SSP • Foster Care or Adoption Assistance																																				
Verifications	The county may ask you for verification of any of the following: • Identity • Income • Immigration status • Residency • Social Security number • Property • Shelter/Utility Expenses																																				
Maximum Aid Payment (MAP)	The Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) level is established by the California State Legislature based on family size. MAP levels vary based on whether adults in the household are employable. The MAP level for households with adult caretakers who can work is called the Non-Exempt MAP Level. It is lower than the MAP level for households with adult caretakers who are not able to work. When the adults in the household are not able to work because of a temporary or permanent incapacity, the family receives a higher MAP. Child only cases in which the adults are non-needy caretakers (not being aided) also receive the higher MAP level. This is called the Exempt MAP Level. <table><tr><th>Assistant Unit</th><th>Non-Exempt MAP</th><th>Exempt MAP</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>\$747</td><td>\$824</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>\$947</td><td>\$1,058</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>\$1,196</td><td>\$1,338</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>\$1,441</td><td>\$1,607</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>\$1,689</td><td>\$1,883</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>\$1,936</td><td>\$2,161</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>\$2,184</td><td>\$2,438</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>\$2,432</td><td>\$2,717</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>\$2,678</td><td>\$2,992</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>\$2,938</td><td>\$3,273</td></tr><tr><td>10+</td><td>\$2,938</td><td>\$3,273</td></tr></table>	Assistant Unit	Non-Exempt MAP	Exempt MAP	1	\$747	\$824	2	\$947	\$1,058	3	\$1,196	\$1,338	4	\$1,441	\$1,607	5	\$1,689	\$1,883	6	\$1,936	\$2,161	7	\$2,184	\$2,438	8	\$2,432	\$2,717	9	\$2,678	\$2,992	10	\$2,938	\$3,273	10+	\$2,938	\$3,273
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Client Responsibility	Once approved, a CalWORKs family must report changes in their household composition, income and property to the county depending on the circumstances of their case. • Every six months on you Semi-Annual Eligibility/Status Report (SAR 7) or at your annual redetermination for those CalWORKs families that includes an aided adult • Every twelve months for those CalWORKs families where only the children are aided (no adults are being aided) Other changes that must be reported within 10 calendar days of the change include: • A member of the household becomes a fleeing felon or violates a condition of parole/probation. • The combined earned and unearned income of the household exceeds the Income Reporting Threshold (IRT) for their household size. • When anyone moves into or out of the home.																																				

Immediate Need & Homeless Assistance	Immediate need payments may be made to families with emergencies with a pending CalWORKs, if there is an apparent eligibility based on the information provided on the application. The maximum immediate need payment is \$200. A family who is apparently eligible for CalWORKs and who are homeless can apply for homeless assistance to meet temporary housing. The maximum homeless assistance payment is based on the number of individuals in your CalWORKs family (Assistant Unit/AU) • Homeless assistance payment is limited to once every 12 months unless an exception criterion is met. Exception includes: ○ State or federally declared disaster ○ Children are with a new caretaker ○ Domestic violence ○ Physical/mental illness
Your Rights	When you apply for CalWORKs, whether you are eligible or not, you have the right to be treated with courtesy, consideration, and respect. The Human Services Agency will not discriminate against anyone because of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, or condition of physical or mental disability.
HOW TO APPLY	Applications will be reviewed, approved, or denied within 45 days from the application date. An interview with the applicant is required prior to granting aid. You can apply for CalWORKs through any of the following methods: Online: benefitscal.com Telephone: Service Center toll-free # 1 (800) 223-8383 Mail: Attn: CalWORKs Application PO Box 25030 San Mateo, CA 94402 Fax: (650) 654-8885 In-Person: At any of the Human Services Agency Offices listed below <u>Northern Region</u> 271 - 92nd Street Daly City, CA 94015 (650) 301-8440 <u>Central Region</u> 1500 Fashion Island Blvd. San Mateo, CA 94004 (650) 802-6470

Southern Region

2500 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 599-3811

2415 University Avenue. 3rd Floor
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 363-4175

Offices are open Monday – Friday, 8:00AM – 5:00PM

This Fact Sheet is not to be used as a substitute for federal/state CalWORKs regulations.