

CALWORKS FACT SHEET (EFFECTIVE 7/1/11)

WHAT IS CALWORKS?	The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program offers temporary cash aid, employment services and health insurance to eligible California families who have children under age 19.
CALWORKS BENEFITS	<p>CalWORKs provides several benefits to families, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary cash aid (EBT card or direct deposit) • Welfare-to-Work services to help families become self-reliant, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child care ○ Substance abuse and mental health services ○ Transportation reimbursement ○ Job training ○ Up to 12 months of educational assistance • Medi-Cal health insurance • CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps), if eligible
WELFARE-TO-WORK REQUIREMENTS	<p>CalWORKs recipients are required to work or participate in work-related activities for 32-35 hours per week.</p> <p>If the CalWORKs recipient is a single parent, the individual is required to work or participate for a total of 32 hours per week, <i>except</i> when the parent has a disability or needs to care for a child with a serious disability.</p> <p>In a two-parent family, adult CalWORKs recipients are required to work or participate for a minimum of 35 hours per week. The 35-hour requirement is a combined hourly requirement for both parents.</p>
APPLICATION PROCESS	<p>The application for CalWORKs includes completion of forms and an interview with an eligibility worker. Aid cannot begin until all conditions of eligibility have been verified. As an applicant, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a social security number • Verify citizenship, or show proof of legal immigration status • Verify income and property • Apply for potentially available income, such as unemployment benefits • Sign an agreement to cooperate with Child Support Services, to locate absent parents, establish paternity and obtain child support <p>Immediate Need payments may be made for families with emergency situations while the CalWORKs application is being processed (maximum of \$200).</p>
CALWORKS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY	<p>After you submit your application, you will be given an appointment to meet with an eligibility worker. If you are in a two-parent household, both parents must be present at the appointment and sign the application. Basic eligibility factors for children and needy parents or caretaker relatives include:</p> <p>Deprivation: Children who will be aided must be deprived of parental support or care because at least one parent is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deceased, or • Either physically or mentally incapacitated, or • Continually absent from the home, or • For two parent families, if the parent who earned the most in the past 24 months is not working, or working less than 100 hours per month <p>Age: Children may be eligible for CalWORKs until their 18th birthday, or are 18 years old and in high school full-time and expected to graduate before age 19</p> <p>Property: The property of a child and parent(s) must be under the limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members may have \$2,000 combined personal and real property per family. Families with elderly members (those who are 60 years of age or older) may have \$3,000 combined personal and real property per family. Furniture, clothing, and appliances are exempt. • The family home is exempt, providing that the family lives in the home. • The value of one registered automobile up to \$4,650 is exempt. <p>Residency: There are no durational residency requirements. Families must live in California and intend to continuing living here to be eligible. CalWORKs-eligible family members must be legal residents of the United States.</p>

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INCOME LIMITS FOR APPLICANTS

CalWORKs regulations provide for a gross income limit, which is determined by subtracting \$90 from the earned income of each employed person, then adding all remaining earned and unearned income to determine the gross income for the family. That amount is then compared to the *Minimum Basic Standards of Adequate Care* (MBSAC) level for the family size. MBSAC is a tool used by California's Department of Social Services to determine CalWORKs eligibility. If the family's total gross monthly income after the \$90 deduction exceeds the MBSAC level for the family size, the family is not eligible. The following chart reflects the current MBSAC levels:

# In Family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
\$ Limit	\$559	\$916	\$1135	\$1347	\$1538	\$1729	\$1900	\$2069

AMOUNT OF CALWORKS CASH ASSISTANCE YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR

With CalWORKs, you may receive temporary cash aid for up to 48 months total in your lifetime. The size of your household and your monthly income determine how much you receive each month. This chart reflects the maximum aid before earned and unearned income, and any applicable deductions, are applied.

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Maximum Aid Amount	\$317	\$516	\$638	\$762	\$866	\$972	\$1069	\$1164

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR CALWORKS BENEFITS

Recipients of CalWORKs are issued a plastic card called an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Card that they can use at ATM machines to withdraw cash. Purchases can also be made at stores that have POS (point of sale) machines, through which the customers will swipe their EBT cards. CalWORKs recipients may also request that their cash aid be automatically deposited into their personal bank account.

YOUR RIGHTS

Whether you are eligible or not, you have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and courtesy when you apply for CalWORKs. The Human Services Department will not discriminate against anyone because of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, religion, age, sex, sexual or gender orientation, marital status, pregnancy, or physical or mental disability. If you believe that you have not been treated equally, contact the Human Services Department Civil Rights Coordinator at (831) 454-4117.

HOW TO APPLY FOR CALWORKS

Apply online: www.benefitscalwin.org

Or visit us at the Human Services Department's application centers located at:

- 1020 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
(831) 454-4165
- 119 W. Beach Street, Watsonville CA 95076
(831) 763-8500

Open Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

TTY for Hearing Impaired (831) 454-4763

You can apply online, or call one of our offices above to have an application mailed to you, or begin the application process over the phone by calling the Benefits Call Center toll-free at 1-888-421-8080.

This Fact Sheet is not a substitute for State CalWORKs regulations.