

**WELFARE-TO-WORK FACT SHEET (EFFECTIVE 1/1/12)**

<b>WHAT IS WELFARE-TO-WORK?</b>	The purpose of the Welfare-to-Work program (WTW) is to help underemployed and unemployed parents who receive cash aid from CalWORKs to learn work skills and find work, so they can support their families.
<b>WELFARE-TO-WORK BENEFITS</b>	<p>Welfare-to-Work services offer eligible CalWORKs parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job Training Scholarships up to \$4,500</li> <li>• Paid Positions with private businesses</li> <li>• Paid On-the-Job Training through the Workforce Investment Act</li> <li>• Unpaid Internships for work experience</li> <li>• DRIVE Center drop-in work experience</li> <li>• Child care during working hours</li> <li>• Transportation reimbursement to and from work</li> <li>• Job-finding workshops</li> <li>• Legal workshops</li> <li>• Self-employment workshops</li> <li>• Counseling</li> <li>• Substance abuse and mental health services</li> <li>• Financial Aid for up to 12 months</li> <li>• Housing scholarships</li> </ul>
<b>WELFARE-TO-WORK REQUIREMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents must qualify for CalWORKs cash aid.</li> <li>• Single parents need to go to work or work-related activities 32 hours a week.</li> <li>• In two-parent families – parents must work a total of 35 hours per week.</li> <li>• Parents report once a month on hours worked.</li> <li>• Other requirements are outlined during the WTW Orientation.</li> </ul>
<b>APPLICATION PROCESS</b>	To enter the Welfare-to-Work Program, you must apply for and receive CalWORKs cash aid. After you apply, you must attend a WTW Orientation and meet with your Employment Training Specialist (ETS). You will create an employment plan with your ETS, who will set up your services for you.
<b>WELFARE-TO-WORK ELIGIBILITY</b>	<p>You must qualify for CalWORKs and have the legal right to work in order to receive Welfare-to-Work services.</p> <p>If you are exempt from WTW, you can still choose to participate voluntarily.</p>
<b>WHAT IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW THROUGH</b>	If you do not attend WTW Orientation, meet with an ETS and then follow through on your Welfare-to-Work Plan, your CalWORKs grant will be reduced. By participating, you keep up your cash aid while building your job skills, gaining work experience, and finding a job to support your children.
<b>AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE FOR WHICH YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE</b>	<p>The assistance you receive will depend on you, your family size, and your unique situation. Here is an example of the value Welfare-to-Work can bring to a single parent with two children. These numbers will not be the same for you, but the approximate numbers below give you an idea of what is offered in this valuable program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CalWORKs cash aid - \$638 per month</li> <li>• CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps) - \$398 per month</li> <li>• Child care for 2 children under age 13 - \$800 per month</li> <li>• Job training scholarship for up to 12 months of training - \$4,500 one time</li> <li>• Health insurance for 3 family members per month - \$1,500 per month</li> <li>• Purchase of work clothing and tools - \$150 one time</li> </ul>
<b>RESTRICTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Welfare-to-Work services such as training, OJT, and placement in paid jobs can only be offered to you during the 48 months (4 years) you receive CalWORKs.</li> <li>• You will need to follow through with what you commit to do and complete the required number of hours of work or work-related activities every week to keep your cash aid.</li> <li>• Other restrictions will be explained to you at the WTW Orientation.</li> </ul>
<b>EXTRA SERVICES THAT COME WITH WTW</b>	If you are on CalWORKs, you automatically receive CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps) for you and your children. You also qualify for Med-Cal health insurance. The insurance plan is excellent; it is run by the Central Coast Alliance for Health, which also runs Healthy Families and Healthy Kids.

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<p><b>YOUR RIGHTS</b></p>	<p>Whether you are eligible or not, you have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and courtesy when you apply for CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work or WIA services. The Human Services Department does 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.</p>
<p><b>AFTER YOU FIND WORK AND GO OFF AID</b></p>	<p>Welfare-to-Work supports you even after you get a job and go off aid with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child care for up to 2 years.</li> <li>• Emergency help to keep your job.</li> <li>• CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps) for up to 5 months.</li> <li>• Health insurance for up to one year.</li> <li>• Earned Income Tax Credit AND Child Tax Credit every year you work.</li> <li>• Watsonville Career Center to improve your job retention skills.</li> </ul>
<p><b>LINKS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Workforce Investment Act Services such as Career Centers, on-the-job training, training for employment, or career counseling, see <a href="http://www.workforcescc.com">www.workforcescc.com</a>.</li> <li>• To apply for CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps) or Medi-Cal, see <a href="http://www.benefitscalwin.org">www.benefitscalwin.org</a>.</li> <li>• Info on human services in Santa Cruz County is at <a href="http://www.santacruzhumanservices.org">www.santacruzhumanservices.org</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HOW TO APPLY FOR CALWORKS WELFARE-TO-WORK</b></p>	<p><b>Apply online:</b> <a href="http://www.benefitscalwin.org">www.benefitscalwin.org</a> for CalWORKs 24/7, then ask about Welfare-to-Work at your first appointment.</p> <p><b>Apply by phone:</b> Call 1-888-421-8080 and follow the prompts to call in your CalWORKs application.</p> <p><b>Apply in person:</b> To apply for CalWORKs, visit us at the Human Service Department’s Application Centers located at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1020 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831) 454-4165</li> <li>• 119 W. Beach Street, Watsonville, CA 95076 (831) 763-8500</li> </ul> <p>Open Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM TTY for Hearing Impaired – (831) 454-4763</p> <p>You can apply for CalWORKs on-line 24 hours a day, 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. You can also pick up and drop off applications in the drop boxes outside the Application Centers 24 hours a day.</p>
<p><b>WHAT IS THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT?</b></p>	<p>The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is a federal jobs program which offers different career services than Welfare-to-Work. If you are on CalWORKs, you will automatically be eligible for WIA services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paid On-the-Job Training with local businesses</li> <li>• Workshops to help you get back into the labor market</li> <li>• Scholarships for Job Training</li> <li>• Self-service job search at three Career Centers</li> <li>• Career Counseling with an Employment and Training Specialist</li> </ul> <p>You can enter both programs at the same time, and services will be coordinated for you. To apply, fill out the pre-application online at <a href="http://www.workforcescc.com">www.workforcescc.com</a> or call the Career Center at (831) 763-8700 and mention CalWORKs. Or drop by the Career Center at 18 W. Beach St., Watsonville, CA 95076 and ask to speak with a WIA Employment and Training Specialist.</p>

**This Fact Sheet is not a substitute for State Welfare-to-Work, CalWORKs, or Workforce Investment Act regulations.**