

WELFARE-TO-WORK FACT SHEET

WHAT IS WELFARE-TO-WORK?

The purpose of the Welfare-to-Work program (WTW) is to help underemployed and unemployed parents who receive CalWORKs cash aid to learn work skills and find work, so they can support their families.

WELFARE-TO-WORK BENEFITS

Welfare-to-Work services offer eligible CalWORKs parents:

- Job Training Scholarships and financial assistance
- Paid positions with private businesses
- Paid On-the-Job Training through the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Unpaid Internships for work experience
- DRIVE Center drop-in work experience
- Child care during hours participating in WTW activities
- Transportation reimbursement to and from WTW activities
- Job-finding workshops
- Legal workshops
- Self-employment workshops
- Counseling
- Substance abuse and mental health services
- Housing assistance
- Diapers

WELFARE-TO-WORK REQUIREMENTS

- Parents must qualify for CalWORKs cash aid.
- Single parents need to go to work or work-related activities 20-30 hours a week (depending on the age of the children).
- In two-parent families – parents must work a total of 35 hours per week.
- Parents report once a month on program participation.
- If you are exempt from WTW, you can still choose to participate voluntarily.
- Other requirements are outlined during the WTW Orientation.

APPLICATION PROCESS

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 and Training Specialist (ETS). You will create a WTW Plan with your ETS, who will set services up for you.

WELFARE-TO-WORK ELIGIBILITY

You must qualify for CalWORKs and have the legal right to work in order to receive Welfare-to-Work services. You must have children under 19 years old to qualify for CalWORKs.

WHAT IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW THROUGH

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 your cash aid while building your job skills, gaining work experience, and finding a job to support your family.

AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE

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 may not be the same for you, but the approximate numbers below give you an idea of what is offered in this valuable program.

- CalWORKs cash aid - \$670 per month
- CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps) - \$500 per month
- Child care for 2 children under age 13 - \$800 per month
- Job training scholarship for up to 12 months of training - \$4,500 one time
- Health insurance for 3 family members per month - \$1,500 per month

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AFTER YOU FIND WORK AND GO OFF AID

Welfare-to-Work supports you even after you get a job and go off aid with:

- Child care for up to 2 years.
- Emergency help to keep your job.
- CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps) for up to 5 months.
- Health insurance for up to one year.
- Earned Income Tax Credit **and** Child Tax Credit every year you work.
- Watsonville Career Center to improve your job retention skills.

HOW TO APPLY FOR CALWORKS WELFARE-TO-WORK

Apply online: www.mybenefitscalwin.org for CalWORKs 24/7

Or visit us at the Human Services Department's Customer Service Centers located at:

- 1020 Emeline Avenue, Building B, Santa Cruz CA 95060
- 18 W. Beach Street, Watsonville CA 95076
- Customer Service Centers are open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- For Hearing or Speech Impaired: Call California Relay Services 711

Or call the Phone Service Center 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday toll-free at 1 (888) 421-8080 to have an application mailed to you.

WHAT IS THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT?

The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) 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 WIOA services, including:

- Paid On-the-Job Training with local businesses
- Workshops to help you get back into the labor market
- Scholarships for Job Training
- Self-service job search at Career Centers
- Career Counseling with an Employment and Training Specialist

You can enter both programs at the same time, and services will be coordinated for you. For more information, visit www.workforcescc.com or call the Capitola Career Center at (831) 464-6286 or Watsonville 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 WIOA Employment and Training Specialist.

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 Welfare-to-Work or WIOA 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, physical or mental disability, ethnic group identification, or domestic partnership. If you believe that you have not been treated equally, contact the County Civil Rights Coordinator at (831) 454-4117.

LINKS

- For Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Services such as Career Centers, on-the-job training, training for employment, or career counseling, visit www.workforcescc.com.
- To apply for CalWORKs, CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps) or Medi-Cal, visit www.mybenefitscalwin.org.
- Info on human services in Santa Cruz County, visit www.santacruzhumanservices.org.

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