



# **CalWORKs**

## **California Work Opportunities and Responsibilities to Kids**

*CalWORKs Division  
Bureau of Program and Policy*



# CalWORKs Program Overview

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CalWORKs is a welfare program that gives cash aid and services to eligible needy California families. If a family has little or no cash and needs housing, food, utilities, clothing or medical care, they may be eligible to receive immediate short-term help. Families that apply and qualify for ongoing assistance receive money each month to help pay for housing, food and other necessary expenses.

- **CalWORKs** provides temporary financial assistance to families with minor children who have income and property below State maximum limits for their family size.
- **CalWORKs** provides employment- focused services through Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) to families with minor children
- Families that apply and qualify for CalWORKs receive money each month to help pay for housing, food and other necessary expenses.
- The amount of a family's monthly cash assistance depends on a number of factors, including income (if any) the number of people who are eligible, and the special needs of any of those family members.
- Applicants may apply for an Immediate Need if an urgent matter exists, if eligible may receive up to \$200.
- Applicants may also apply for Homeless Assistance if the family lacks a permanent place to live.



# Basic Eligibility Requirements

- The family's net monthly income (after applicable disregards) must be less than the Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) for family size. For example, the MAP for a family of three is currently \$714 (effective October 1, 2016).
- At least one parent must be unemployed, deceased, disabled or absent.
- The principle wage earner in a two-parent family must not be employed more than 100 hours a month at the time of application.
- Children must live with a parent or relative caregiver.
- Aided family members must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible legal immigrant.
- Cash on hand is limited to \$2,250. If one member of the aided/to be aided household is 60 years or older, the limit is \$3,500. Property and/or resources that are not counted towards property limit include the home in which the family lives, furniture, appliances, tools needed for employment, and one car, with a value up to \$9,500.



# Basic Eligibility Requirements (continue)

- Application process can take up to 30 calendar days.
- Required documents include, but are not limited to:
  - ✓ CA Residency (CA ID or CA DL)
  - ✓ Birth Certificates
  - ✓ Pregnancy verification (if applicable)
  - ✓ Immigration status (Resident Alien Card)
  - ✓ Income (earn or unearned)
  - ✓ Resources (bank account(s), house(s), vehicle(s), life insurance policies, retirement accounts)
  - ✓ Immunizations (all children under age 6)



<u>AU Size</u>	<u>Exempt MAP</u>	<u>Non-Exempt MAP</u>
1	\$392	\$355
2	\$645	\$577
3	\$799	\$714
4	\$949	\$852
5	\$1,080	\$968
6	\$1,214	\$1,087
7	\$1,334	\$1,195
8	\$1,454	\$1,301
9	\$1,571	\$1,407
10 or more	\$1,689	\$1,511

(1) To receive the MAP (higher) exemption the family must have an eligible child and each adult relative caretaker must receive one of the following benefits: SSI, IHSS, SDI, Temporary Workers' Comp, Temporary Disability, or is a non-needy/non-parent caretaker relative.

**CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA) - State Program: Available once every 12 months. A family may also be able to get this assistance more than once in 12 months, if they meet an exception.**

- **Temporary HA – Provides homeless families with up to 16 consecutive calendar days of shelter payments so families can stay at a hotel, motel, or paid shelter.**
- **Permanent HA – Provides homeless families with assistance to pay for security deposit costs required by the landlord and utility turn-on fees needed to secure permanent housing.**
- **Permanent HA Arrearages – Provides families who are at-risk of homelessness with assistance to pay for up to two months of past due rent to prevent eviction.**

**HA benefits based on an exception are available once at any point during the 12-month period. Exceptions include when homelessness is the result of: domestic violence, uninhabitability of the residence, a medically verified physical or mental illness, or a State or federally declared natural disaster.**



## County Supplemental Homeless Assistance Programs:

- **Temporary Homeless Assistance Program (THAP)+14 – Supplements the State’s Temporary HA by providing an additional 14 days of temporary shelter payments so homeless families can stay at a hotel, motel, or paid shelter.**
- **Moving Assistance – Provides families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness with assistance to pay security deposit costs, truck rental, utility turn-on fees, and refrigerator and/or stove.**
- **Emergency Assistance to Prevent Eviction – Provides families who are at-risk of homelessness with assistance to pay for up to \$3,000 to help pay for up to two months of past due arrears when facing eviction.**
- **4-Month Rental Assistance – Provides up to four consecutive months of rental subsidy payments to help families stabilize after being homeless or at-risk of homelessness. If the CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work family is participating in the GAIN Family Stabilization Program, the family may receive up to eight consecutive months of rental subsidy payments.**



- Currently, most adults can only receive **48 months of cash aid**. There is no time limit on cash aid for children.
- Some exemptions apply such as:
  - Victims of domestic violence; or
  - Those deemed to be permanently or temporarily disabled.



# Where and How to Apply

- There are 24 CalWORKs District Offices throughout Los Angeles County in which a family can apply for aid.
- The application can be done in person or on-line via Your Benefits Now link on the [dpss.lacounty.gov](http://dpss.lacounty.gov) webpage.
- The Department has a 'No Wrong Door' policy that allows families to apply at any office. The case will be transferred to the appropriate office based on the case address.

# Questions?