



# CalWORKs PROGRAM FACT SHEET September 2009



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## Program Purpose

The purpose of the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program is to:

- Promote and encourage work to enable families to become self-sufficient.
- Provide financial aid for children who lack financial support and care.
- Protect and preserve the family unit.
- Provide the opportunity for rehabilitation of the family whenever possible.
- Make available to children who cannot live in their own homes the kind of care and treatment best suited to their needs.

## Eligibility Factors

Basic eligibility factors for a child(ren) and a needy parent(s) or caretaker relative include deprivation, age, property, and residency.

### Deprivation

The aided child must be deprived of parental support or care because at least one parent is:

- Deceased; or
- Either physically or mentally incapacitated; or
- The applicant parent is not working or is working less than 100 hours per month; or
- Continually absent from the home.

### Age

Children may be eligible for CalWORKs until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or are 18 years old and in high school or vocational school full time and are expected to complete either program before their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday or he/she is disabled and attends school full-time.

### Property

The property of a child and the parent(s) must be under the following limits:

- Families without elderly members may have \$2000 combined personal and real property per family.
- Families with elderly members (those who are 60 years of age or older) may have \$3000 combined personal and real property per family.
- Furniture, clothing and appliances are exempt.
- The family home is exempt provided the family lives in the home.
- Automobiles may be exempt for specific uses and/or up to \$4650.

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### Residency

There are no durational residency requirements for the CalWORKs program. Families who make their residence in California and who intend to continue to live in California may be eligible. Family members must be legal residents of the United States.

### Applying For Aid

The application for CalWORKs includes completion of eligibility forms and an interview with a case manager. Aid cannot begin until all conditions of eligibility have been verified. These conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Cooperating with the District Attorney for establishing paternity and securing child support from the absent parent.
- Applying for a Social Security number.
- Verifying citizenship, or showing proof of legal immigration status.
- Verifying income and property.
- Applying for potentially available income such as UIB.

Immediate need payments may be made for families with emergency situations while the CalWORKs application is being processed. The maximum immediate need payment is \$200.

### Office Locations

An application for CalWORKs may be made at any of the offices listed below:

Locations	Locations
Galt Bureau 257 South Lincoln Way Galt, CA 95632 209-745-3484	South Area Multi-program Bureau 2450 Florin Road Sacramento, CA 95822 875-8100
Rancho Cordova Bureau 10013 Folsom Blvd., Suite 1 Sacramento, CA 95827 875-8600	Research Drive Bureau 3960 Research Drive Sacramento, CA 95838 648-0894
North Highlands Bureau 5747 Watt Avenue North Highlands, CA 95660 876-8000	Fulton Avenue Bureau 2700 Fulton Avenue Sacramento, CA 95821 874-3800

Please call the listed numbers for office hours.

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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 MBSAC (Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care) level for the family size. If the family's total gross income after the \$90 deduction exceeds the MBSAC level for the family size, the family is not eligible.

### MBSAC (Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care)

The following chart reflects the current (7/01/2009) MBSAC levels:

# of Persons	MBSAC Amount
1	\$512
2	\$841
3	\$1042
4	\$1239
5	\$1413
6	\$1589
7	\$1743
8	\$1902
9	\$2056
10	\$2238
11 & up	+\$20 per person

### Client Responsibility

Once aid is granted, the CalWORKs family must report changes in their income, household composition and property to their case manager every quarter on their Quarter Eligibility/Status Report (QR 7). Some other things must be reported within 10 days of occurrence: a member of the household becomes a fleeing felon, is convicted of a drug felony, violates a condition of parole/probation or the combined earned and unearned income of the household exceeds the Income Reporting Threshold (IRT) for their household size.

An annual redetermination of eligibility is required for CalWORKs recipients.

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## MAP (Maximum Aid Payment)

The MAP (Maximum Aid Payment) level is established by the California State Legislature based on family size. Families who do not have any income other than CalWORKs receive MAP.

MAP levels vary based on whether or not the adults in the household are able to work.

The MAP level for households with adult caretakers who are able to work is lower than the MAP level for households with adult caretakers who are not able to work. This is called the **Non Exempt MAP Level**.

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, i.e., cases where no adults are receiving aid, also receive the higher MAP level. This is called the **Exempt MAP Level**.

The following chart reflects the current (07/01/2009) Non Exempt MAP and Exempt MAP levels:

# Persons on Aid	Non Exempt MAP	Exempt MAP
1	\$326	\$363
2	\$533	\$598
3	\$661	\$740
4	\$788	\$879
5	\$897	\$1003
6	\$1007	\$1125
7	\$1104	\$1236
8	\$1205	\$1347
9	\$1302	\$1457
10 or more	\$1398	\$1564

## Work Disregards

When a cash aid recipient is employed or receives disability based income, CalWORKs regulations allow the following deductions from the gross income:

- \$225.00 from the combined disability based income and/or earnings
- 50% of the earnings remaining *after* the \$225.00 is deducted.

Any income remaining after the deductions are subtracted from the gross income is then subtracted from the MAP amount to determine the amount of the CalWORKs grant.

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### Homeless Assistance

Families who are eligible for CalWORKs and who are homeless can apply for a special need payment to meet their costs for temporary and permanent housing. The maximum Homeless assistance payment is based on the size of the CalWORKs family.

Homeless Assistance is available only once in a lifetime unless the family is homeless due to domestic violence, natural disaster, uninhabitability, or a physical or mental disability. All exceptions must be verified by a third party agency.

CalWORKs families may be eligible to apply for Homeless Assistance benefits to assist with the payment of rent arrearages. Payment of arrearages is considered a family's once in a lifetime Homeless Assistance payment.

### VAPP (Voluntary Alternative Payee Payment)

CalWORKs recipients may request that their rent or mortgage payment be paid directly to their landlord or mortgage holder. The rent or mortgage amount is deducted from the cash aid payment made to the recipient.

### Direct Deposit

CalWORKs recipients may request that their cash aid be automatically deposited into their personal bank account. Applications with instructions for this program are available at each bureau.

### Cal Learn

Pregnant or parenting teens who have not graduated from high school are required to participate in the Cal Learn program. Components of the Cal Learn program include:

- Teens must attend school and submit their report card to their Cal Learn case manager; and
- Teens are paid a bonus for satisfactory school progress or high school graduations; or
- Teens who do not attend school or fail to maintain adequate school progress receive a financial sanction.

### Medi-Cal

Family members who receive CalWORKs would generally be eligible to receive Medi-Cal benefits at no share of cost. A separate application is not required.

### Food Stamps

If a family is found to be eligible for CalWORKs, the family may also be eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program. A separate application is not required.