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**CalWORKs PROGRAM  
FACT SHEET**

CalWORKs is a public assistance program that gives cash aid and services to eligible 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.

The amount of a family's monthly assistance payment depends on a number of factors, including the number of people who are eligible and the special needs of any of those family members. The income of the family is considered in calculating the amount of cash aid the family receives.

**For Whom**

Specific eligibility requirements take into account an applicant's citizenship, age, income, resources, assets, and other factors. Services are available to:

- Single parent families that have a child(ren) in the home who is deprived of parental support or care because of the absence, disability, or death of either parent;
- Two-parent families with a child when the principal wage earner is unemployed or has not worked for more than 100 hours in the four weeks preceding the date of the application;
- Caretaker relatives (non-parent) caring for a child who is related within the 5<sup>th</sup> degree. This may include a child who is receiving any financial assistance such as:
  - Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program;
  - Foster Care payments such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care;
  - Approved Relative Caregiver; or
  - Kin-GAP.
- A pregnant teen, age 18 or younger who is in her first trimester.
- A pregnant woman, age 19 or over, who is in her second trimester.

**Income Limits**

The family's income must meet the gross income limit. Gross income may include income from employment, disability-based income, child/spousal support payments, Social Security benefits, etc.

For new applications, the gross income (for earnings, deduct \$90 from the gross income) must be under the Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC) for the family.

If income is below MBSAC, a Recipient Test is applied where disregards/deductions are applied - \$550 disregard for certain disability-based income and earnings and a 50 percent additional disregard for the remaining earnings. The net countable income must be less than the Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) level for the family size.

For approved ongoing cases, the gross income after applicable disregards must be less than the MAP level for the family size.

### **Property/Resource Limits**

The family's property/resources must be at or below the property/resource limits:

- Effective July 1, 2021, \$10,211 (cash on hand, savings, stocks, etc.), and \$15,317 if a member of the family is disabled, or age 60 or over.
- Effective July 1, 2021, Applicants/Participants may retain non-exempt vehicles that have an equity value of \$25,483 or less. Equity is the amount of the Fair Market Value of the vehicle less encumbrances (amount owed on vehicle, if any). Any equity value in excess of \$25,483 as of July 1, 2021 will be counted towards the property/resource limit.

Property/Resources that may be exempt from consideration may include:

- The home the applicant/participant resides in.
- Personal/Household items (furniture, appliances, etc.).
- Tools used for trade/profession.
- Participants may hold special restricted savings accounts to be used for education/training, business, secure housing, or to purchase a home.
- CalABLE accounts - a tax-advantaged savings account that allows individuals with disabilities to save for disability-related expenses without losing eligibility to CalWORKs.

### **Other Requirements**

Applicant/Participant families must also:

- Have a Social Security Number or have applied for one for each person requesting aid with some exceptions.
- Cooperate with Child Support requirements, with some exceptions.
- Provide immunizations for all children under the age of six who are not enrolled in school.

- Meet Welfare-to-Work requirements or meet an exemption.
- Meet Semi-Annual or Annual reporting requirements.

**Time Limits**

An aided adult (parent or caretaker relative) can only receive 48 months (4 years) of CalWORKs assistance with exceptions.

- The 48-month count includes months in which aid was received from other states (after 1/1/98). The months do not need to be consecutive.
- Months in which aid was received prior to January 1, 1998 are not counted.

**Additional Benefits**

- A special need allowance may be allowed for diets, transportation, etc.
- A special non-recurring allowance may be given to replace clothing and household equipment if the loss was due to a sudden and unusual circumstance (fire, flood, earthquake, etc.).
- A variety of Homeless Assistance Programs are available.
- A Diversion payment may be available for applicants who need help to meet a one-time-only expense that prevents current employment or who are likely to find employment in a short period.
- Child Care and other supportive services are available for Welfare-to-Work participants.

**CalWORKs Payment Standards**

The chart below reflects the CalWORKs MAP levels effective October 1, 2021.

Family Size	Current MAP (Non-Exempt)	Current MAP (Exempt) <sup>1</sup>	Family Size	Current MAP (Non-Exempt)	Current MAP (Exempt) <sup>1</sup>
1	\$579	\$638	6	\$1,499	\$1,673
2	\$733	\$819	7	\$1,691	\$1,887
3	\$925	\$1,035	8	\$1,883	\$2,104
4	\$1,116	\$1,244	9	\$2,074	\$2,316
5	\$1,308	\$1,458	10 or more	\$2,266	\$2,534

(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: Supplemental Security

Income, In-Home Supportive Services, Security Disability Insurance, Temporary Workers' Compensation, Temporary Disability, or is a non-needy/non-parent caretaker relative.

### **How to Apply for CalWORKs Benefits**

An application may be submitted at a DPSS office. Please visit <http://dpss.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpss> to find the nearest office.

In addition, an application may be submitted on line through Your Benefits Now! website at <https://yourbenefits.laclrs.org/ybn/Index.html>

For detailed information, visit the DPSS website at <http://www.ladpss.org/>

CalWORKs and GAIN Program Division (Rev. 10/2021)