

CalWORKs

California Work
Opportunity and
Responsibility to Kids

What is CalWORKs?

- Formerly AFDC
 - No time limits
 - Limited incentive to work
- PRWORA 1996 created TANF
- CalWORKs is California's TANF program
 - Time Limits for adults introduced (5 year lifetime limit)
 - Safety net for children
 - Work requirements introduced
 - Maximum Family Grant

What is CalWORKs?

Short-term help to meet basic needs while families transition to self-sufficiency



CalWORKs Data

- Number of children sheltered, clothed and fed with CalWORKs
 - 3,248 in 2007
 - 3,629 in 2008
 - 4,020 in 2009
- Average family size = 2.5
- Over *\$6 million* mostly federal and state dollars distributed directly to CalWORKs families in El Dorado County annually

Who Can Get CalWORKs?

- Families with limited income and resources
 - Income limit for a family of 2 is \$854 per month
 - Countable resources must be less than \$2000
- Families that include children who are deprived of parental support or care
 - Absent parent(s)
 - Deceased parent
 - Disabled parent
 - Unemployed parent (principal earner)

Parent Responsibility

- Must participate in work activities unless exempt
- Must cooperate to establish and maintain child support collection from absent parent
 - Child support payments are collected by local child support agency and offset CalWORKs payments to families
- Must provide proof of income, resources, legal residency status, work and/or school status
- Must be fingerprinted and photo imaged

Required Participation

- Adult CalWORKs recipients are required to participate in welfare-to-work activities:
 - 1 parent families must participate 32 hours weekly.
 - 2 parent families must participate 35 hours weekly.
- Job Search
 - Continue seeking employment
- Participation
 - Regular attendance in assigned activity
 - Satisfactory progress towards individual plan

Welfare-to-Work Activities

- Required activities are tailored to individuals after an assessment of job readiness and may include:
 - 4-12 weeks of Job Club
 - job readiness training
 - supervised job search
 - Employment counseling
 - Job skills training
 - Work experience
 - Work study
 - Community service
 - Job placement

Program Success

- CalWORKs adults on the path to self-sufficiency *
 - 63% had earnings in SFY 07/08
 - 62% had earnings in SFY 06/07
 - 70% had earnings in SFY 05/06
- Average Time on Assistance for Families Exiting CalWORKs
 - 13 months in 2009
 - 16 months in 2008
 - 14 months in 2007

**able-bodied, non-exempt employed adults*

Exits from CalWORKs

		2007	2008	2009
Achieved Self-Sufficiency		80%	81%	83%
Other Reasons	No eligible children remain in the home	10%	11%	9%
	Moved or transferred to another county	10%	8%	8%
	Other	0%	0%	1%
total		100%	100%	100%

Programs that support self-sufficiency include:

- Welfare to Work
- Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- Family Self-Sufficiency
- Linkages
- Childcare programs
- Child Support
- First 5 funded programs

What's Next for CalWORKs?

- Current budget
- Recent program changes
 - Short term reform through 6/30/11
- Anticipated changes
 - Long term reform beginning 7/1/11

