

CalWORKs Stage One Child Care Eligibility

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Background	<p>Assembly Bill (AB) 1542, Chapter 270, Statutes of 1997, established the CalWORKs Program which included the CalWORKs Stage One Subsidized Child Care Program. Stage One child care is administered by the County of San Mateo and supervised by the Department of Social Services. Stage One child care begins upon the entry of a person into the CalWORKs assistance program.</p> <p>Effective October 1, 2019, Senate Bill 80 increased access to child care services for CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work eligible participants by authorizing CalWORKs Stage One Child Care immediately and continuously for 12 months or until the participants are transferred to Stage Two or are no longer eligible for Stage One Child Care.</p>
Purpose	<p>The purpose of the CalWORKs Stage One Child Care Program is to connect CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work (WTW) eligible recipients with child care resources as timely as possible. Timely access to child care resources will result in child care arrangement stability and less stress for parent(s) who are working or attending an educational/training program. Immediate and continuous Stage One child care eligibility is part of a two-generational approach to disrupt the cycle of poverty by simultaneously focusing on the needs of parents and children and is intended to ensure that access to stable child care is never a barrier to fully engaging in the CalWORKs WTW Program. Immediate and continuous child care maximizes parental choice, promotes child care continuity, and provides stability to vulnerable families starting on the path to economic mobility. By authorizing child care for 12 months, and not for a single WTW activity, families will not experience breaks in their child care services.</p>
Eligible Children	<p>Child Care services are available to every CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work client with a child who meets at least one of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is in the CalWORKs assistance unit • Receives Foster Care • Receives State Supplemental Income/Social Security Payment (SSI/SSP) • Is a member of a family with a former CalWORKs client who has become employed • Is not in the assistance unit but is related by blood, marriage or court decree, and child care is needed for the client to participate in approved CalWORKs or Cal-Learn activities or employment <p>AND</p> <p>at least one condition in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is 12 years of age or under • Is physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself/herself based on a written statement from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A physician, or ◦ A licensed or certified psychologist, or ◦ Receives SSI/SSP and meets the age requirement for CalWORKs cash benefits, or • Is under court supervision and meets the age requirements for CalWORKs cash benefits. <p>11 and 12 Year Old Children</p> <p>Children of 11 and 12 years of age may receive Stage One child care services to the extent funds are available. The child care can be provided only for the portion of time that is not available through a before or after school program. Families may combine care provided in a before or after school program with subsidized child care in another location, for hours within a day when the before or after school program doesn't operate, in order to meet the child care needs of the family/WTW participant.</p> <p>Families who do not have an available before or after school program to care for their child/ren are</p>

	<p>eligible for Stage One Child Care for the necessary time that care is needed.</p> <p>13 Year old Children</p> <p>Children whose initial certification or recertification occurs prior to the child's thirteenth birthday may receive subsidized child care services for the duration of the 12-month eligibility period. Contractors must not dis-enroll a child when they turn 13 during the 12-month eligibility period and must allow the child to continue in subsidized child care until the family's next recertification. Counties shall provide the family a Notice of Action (NOA) specifying the duration of eligibility. The NOA shall include the end date of subsidized child care services, which must be through the 12-month eligibility period, and no later than the child's fourteenth birthday.</p>
Eligible Parents	<p>Parents, including parents participating in the Cal-Learn and Family Stabilization programs, become eligible for 12 months of immediate and continuous child care upon CalWORKs cash-aid approval. For Stage One child care eligibility purposes, CalWORKs approval means the CalWORKs beginning date of aid. Clients who are WTW eligible are also eligible for CalWORKs Stage One Child Care and should automatically be authorized for full-time care (regardless of their required participation hours) unless they specifically ask for part-time care. The 12-months of continuous eligibility policy requires participants to re-certify stage one child care after a 12-month period unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They indicate that their child care needs changed; including adding a child who needs care • They have changed child care providers • Eligible child exceeds the age requirements, or the eligible child otherwise becomes ineligible <p>Two-Parent Households</p> <p>If both parents, who are otherwise eligible, and are unavailable to provide care for their children will be able to receive child care assistance through Stage One Child Care. A parent is considered available to provide care unless they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working or sleeping after working • Going to school, participating in WTW approved activities or have a condition that prevents them from caring for their child/ren <p>Note:</p> <p>Reimbursements will not be made for child care provided by a relative when the client is the child's parent(s), legal guardian, or Member of the assistance unit, including a step-parent.</p>
Two-Parent Households	<p>Parents in a two-parent household who are otherwise eligible and unavailable to provide care for their children will be able to receive child care assistance through Stage One Child Care. A parent is considered available to provide care unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are working or sleeping after working • Going to school, participating in WTW approved activities • They have a condition that prevents them from caring for their child/ren • One parent is timed-out, in the home; but unavailable to provide care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Timed-out parent may be unavailable due to looking for work <p>Note:</p> <p>Reimbursements will not be made for child care provided by a relative when the client is the child's parent(s), legal guardian, or member of the assistance unit, including a step-parent.</p>
Non- Assistance Unit Members	<p>Child Care can be authorized for children who are not part of the Assistance Unit (AU) only if lack of child care would result in an effect in WTW participation and the WTW participant is responsible to support the child who is not in the AU.</p> <p>Example 1:</p> <p>A single parent requests CalWORKs Stage One child care both for her children and her sister's unaided son and daughter who are living with her while her sister is in jail. The father of her nephew and niece is absent.</p> <p>In this scenario, the client's nephew and niece meet the requirements above.</p> <p>Example 2:</p>

	<p>A single parent requests CalWORKs Stage One child care both for his children and the children of his unaided girlfriend living with him. His girlfriend is working but isn't able to provide care for his children during his hours of employment.</p> <p>In this scenario, the girlfriend's children do not meet the requirements above.</p>
Eligible Former Clients	<p>Former CalWORKs clients shall receive Stage One child care if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child care services are not available in Stage Two or Three, and • The client meets all eligibility requirements, and • The family meets the income and family size requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Income of recipients of Federal SSI/SSP benefits shall not be included as income. • Not more than 24 months have elapsed since the client left cash aid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Former recipients who were sanctioned before October 1, 2019, including those in long-term sanction, who have received aid in the past 24 months, must express an intent to cure their sanction to be eligible for Stage One. Income <p>Income and Family Size</p> <p>Adjusted monthly income is the total countable income minus verified child support payments paid by the parent whose child is receiving child development services. When income fluctuates, the adjusted monthly income shall be computed by averaging the total adjusted income received during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the month in which the application for services is signed. Total countable income is income that does not include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earnings of a minor, a child under age eighteen (18) • Monies not for Living Expenses, including loans, grants and scholarships obtained under conditions that preclude their use for current living costs • Student grants and loans for educational purposes made or insured by a state or federal agency • Work allowances received for uniforms or other work required clothing, food and shelter • Self-Employment business expenses for self-employed family members
Inter-County Transfers	<p>When a CalWORKs family notifies HSA that they are moving to a different county, the Child Care Specialist must do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the client in writing of the responsibility to apply for child care in the second county and the payment responsibility information in order to avoid a break in child care services. <p>The Second County is responsible for establishing a child care case as soon as the client applies for and meets the child care eligibility requirements regardless of the status of the cash aid transfer.</p> <p>In the event the second county informs the client they cannot set-up child care for them, the Child Care Specialist should inform the WTW and Child Care Program Policy Analyst (PPA) via e-mail at cantezana@smcgov.org. The PPA will connect with the second county to prevent a break in child care.</p> <p>Family is Changing Child Care Provider(s)</p> <p>When a family moves to a different county and is changing child care providers, the first county should pay child care through the last day the client uses that provider even if the family is already physically living in the new county.</p> <p>The second county should pay child care to the new provider regardless of the completion of a cash aid transfer period. Meaning, San Mateo County should pay the new provider in SM County even if SM County hasn't picked up the CalWORKs case.</p> <p><u>Family is not Changing Child Care Provider(s)</u></p> <p>When a family on cash-aid moves to a different county and is not changing child care providers, the first county should continue to pay for child care until the cash aid transfer period is completed or sooner with mutual agreement with the second county. This agreement must be documented in CalWIN case comments. If a family is off cash-aid, the first county should continue to pay for child care for up to 30 days from the date the client moves out of the county, at which time the second county assumes responsibility for payment.</p> <p>As a reminder, the cash-aid transfer period is defined as the period of time in which the second county determines eligibility and the first county remains responsible for payment of aid.</p>

Forms	CCP 7 CalWORKs Child Care Request Form and Child Care Payment Rules C-705 CalWORKs Employment Services Child Care Referral NA 835 Notice of Action Child Care Discontinuance WTW 29 Plan to Meet WTW Rules and Get My Cash Aid Back
References	Eligibility and Assistance Standards Manual: 47-100 47-200 All County Letter 19-99 All County Information Notice I-09-21 Child Care Bulletin 22-04