

What is the Welfare-to-Work Program?

The Welfare-to-Work Program is a comprehensive Employment and Training Program designed to promote self-sufficiency. CalWORKs recipients are assessed to determine the best course of action, whether it is immediate placement into a job, placement into an education or training program, or both.

Who is eligible for Welfare-to-Work services?

The CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work Program is open to anyone receiving CalWORKs cash aid. Anyone receiving CalWORKs cash aid must participate in the Welfare-to-Work program unless that person is exempt. Individuals are exempt when they have a good reason for not participating, such as being ill or incapacitated or are caring for an incapacitated person.

What do I have to do if I'm in the Welfare-to-Work Program?

When you apply for CalWORKs cash aid, we will determine if you meet a Welfare-to-Work requirement. If you do, then we will assess your education and work history. You may be scheduled for a two-week Job Club where you will learn basic job search skills, resume writing, Consumer Credit information, and other topics related to preparing you for the job market. If you do not have a job after completing Job Club, you will be scheduled for two weeks of Job Search. You may also have a more in-depth assessment to help you remove any barriers that may be preventing you from finding and keeping a job.

What if I need child care or transportation so I can go to work or just need help looking for job?

Support services for placement into a job include training to uncover the "hidden" job market, preparation of a resume, and support in looking for a job. Most expenses, such as the cost of transportation, are paid by the Welfare-to-Work Program. Generally child care expenses will be paid unless you choose a provider that charges higher rates than we can pay. Once placed in a job, you will receive additional help with work supplies and continued help with transportation and child care.

What about education and training programs?

The Welfare-to-Work Program can assign you to, and pay for, an approved education or training program that prepares the participant to get a specific job. The Welfare-to-Work Program can pay for the cost of approved education or training program, books and supplies, transportation, and child care costs. Once the training is completed, additional support is made available to you to find a job in that field.

What happens after I get a job?

When you start working, you may still be eligible to receive CalWORKs cash aid. The first \$112 of your gross earned income is not counted, and 50% of the remaining gross income is also exempt as income. If you continue to receive CalWORKs cash aid, you may also be eligible for transportation, child care and other supportive services to help you advance in your job. If you are otherwise eligible, child care supportive services can continue for 24 months and beyond. You may want to connect with our business services team. You can receive advice on how to plan career advancement strategies. We want to provide you with the tools necessary to attain your goal - providing for your family.

What happens when I am working and no longer eligible for CalWORKs?

You may continue to be eligible for Job Retention services for up to six consecutive months the first time you go off aid due to being employed and up to three consecutive months if you go back on aid and then off again. Job retention services may include supportive services, mentoring, education services, adult basic education or English-as-a-second-language in addition to child care and transportation. You can also receive services through the [One-Stop Centers](#).

For more general information about Contra Costa County's Welfare-to-Work program please contact:

Drina Rowland
Program Analyst
(925) 313-1711
drowland@ehsd.cccounty.us