Workforce Services Bureau / CalWORKs CASH AID

What is CalWORKs?

CalWORKs is California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids program. The purpose of CalWORKs is to provide financial aid for children who lack financial support and care, and to promote and encourage work to enable families to become self-sufficient. Click here for the CalWORKs Fact Sheet.

Eligibility Factors

Basic eligibility factors for a child(ren) and a needy parent(s) or caretaker relative include:

- **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 18th birthday, or 18 years old and in high school or vocational school full-time and expected to complete their program before their 19th birthday.
- **Property** - The total property of a child(ren) and the parent(s) must be under the following limits:
    - Families without elderly members (60 years of age or older) may have $2,000 combined personal and real property per family. Families with elderly members may have $3,000 combined personal and real property per family.
    - The family home is exempt from the property limits, provided the family lives in the home. One automobile valued up to $4,650 is exempt. Furniture, clothing and appliances are also exempt.
- **Residence** - There are no durational residency requirements for the CalWORKs program. Families who reside in California and who intend to remain in California may be eligible. Eligible family members must be legal residents of the United States.

CalWORKs Time Limits

CalWORKs has a 48-month/4-year cumulative time limit for receipt of cash aid and requires adults in the family to meet certain work participation requirements.

The Diversion Program

The Diversion Program is designed to help families avoid aid and long-term dependency. If the family is found to be eligible for cash assistance, they may

choose Diversion instead of CalWORKs. To receive Diversion, there must be a sound plan for immediate self-support.

School Attendance & Immunization Requirements

CalWORKs regulations require that all school-age children attend school regularly. It is the responsibility of the parent. If a child under age 16 does not attend school, the parent may be sanctioned and removed from the cash grant. If a child 16-18 does not attend school, then that child is removed from the cash grant.
Families receiving CalWORKs cash aid are required to obtain immunizations for all pre-school children (birth through 6 years of age). Parents must provide written proof of their child's immunization records. A parent who does not give the county this proof may be sanctioned, and his/her needs may be removed from the cash grant.

To Apply

There are five CalWORKs offices located throughout Contra Costa County. For information on your eligibility to CalWORKs, call the office nearest you to set up an appointment.

WEST

Richmond
1305 Macdonald Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801
(510) 412-3000

Hercules
151 Linus Pauling Drive
Hercules, CA 94547
(510) 262-7700

CENTRAL

Pleasant Hill
400 Ellinwood Way
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 602-9379

EAST

Antioch
4545 Delta Fair Boulevard
Antioch, CA 94509
(925) 706-4980

Brentwood
151 Sand Creek Road,
Suite A, Bldg. 6
Brentwood, CA 94513
(925) 513-3720

Office hours in each location are Mon-Fri, 8:00 am to 12:00 Noon and 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

An on-line self-screening tool is available by clicking here.

For more general information about CalWORKs in Contra Costa County please contact:

Vince Odusanya
Program Analyst
(925) 313-1714
VODUSANYA@ehsd.cccounty.us