

CALWORKS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FACT SHEET

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ



WHAT IS CALWORKS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES?

CalWORKs Employment Services (CWES) helps underemployed and unemployed parents who receive CalWORKs cash aid improve their work skills and find work, so they can support their families. CWES offers a variety of opportunities and supportive services to help families remove barriers and meet their goals.

CALWORKS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT

The following CWES activities and support is available to eligible CalWORKs parents:

- Computer and internet assistance
- Diapers assistance
- Eviction prevention and rental support
- Full-time childcare
- Housing assistance
- Paid training through the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Paid work experience
- Referral for legal, substance abuse and mental health services
- Transportation and necessary car repair assistance
- Triple P parenting support
- Unpaid Internships for work experience
- Work and interview clothing assistance

CALWORKS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES BARRIER REMOVAL

CWES can help address the following barriers that may affect employability and family stability:

- Domestic Abuse
- Health concerns
- Homelessness
- Lack of childcare
- Lack of transportation/reliable transportation
- Lack of employment history
- Language barriers
- Learning disabilities
- Legal issues
- Level of education
- Mental health or substance abuse issues

CALWORKS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES REQUIREMENTS

- Parents must qualify for CalWORKs cash aid.
- Single parents must participate in activities for 20-30 hours a week (depending on the age of the children).
- Two-parent families must participate in activities for a combined 35 hours per week.
- Exemptions are available if you are unable to participate in the required hours.
- If you are exempt, you can still choose to participate voluntarily.
- CWES requirements, opportunities and available support are outlined during the CWES Orientation.

WHAT IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW THROUGH

If you do not have an approved exemption or do not meet CWES program requirements, your CalWORKs grant may be reduced. By participating, you keep your full cash aid while building your job skills, gaining work experience, furthering your education, and finding a job to support your family.

CALWORKS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ELIGIBILITY

You must qualify for CalWORKs and have the legal right to work to receive CWES support. You must have children under 19 years old to qualify for CalWORKs.

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APPLICATION PROCESS

To enter the CWES Program, you must apply for and receive CalWORKs cash aid. After you apply, you will attend CWES Orientation and meet your Employment and Training Specialist (ETS). Together with your ETS, you will create a CWES Plan that will identify your goals and any support you may need along the way.

AFTER YOU FIND WORK AND GO OFF CALWORKS

CWES supports you even after you get a job and go off aid with:

- Childcare for up to 2 years.
- Emergency help to keep your job.
- CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps) for up to 5 months.
- Health insurance for up to one year.
- Transportation, diaper, and internet support for 3 months.

WHAT IS THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION & OPPORTUNITY ACT?

The Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) is a federal jobs program which offers different career services than CWES. If you are on CalWORKs, you will automatically be eligible for WIOA services, including:

- Paid On-the-Job Training with local businesses
- Workshops to help you get back into the labor market
- Scholarships for Job Training
- Self-service job search at Career Centers
- Career Counseling with an Employment and Training Specialist

You can enter both programs at the same time, and services will be coordinated for you. For more information, visit www.workforcescc.com or call the Capitola Career Center at (831) 464-6286 or Watsonville Career Center at (831) 7638700 and mention CalWORKs. Or drop by the Career Center at 18 W. Beach St., Watsonville, CA 95076 and ask to speak with a WIOA Employment Specialist.

HOW TO APPLY FOR CALWORKS

- Apply online: www.benefitscal.com
- Visit us at the Human Services Department's Customer Service Centers located at:
 - 1020 Emeline Avenue, Building B, Santa Cruz CA 95060
 - 18 W. Beach Street, Watsonville CA 95076
 - Customer Service Centers are open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
 - For Hearing or Speech Impaired: Call California Relay Services 711
- Call the Phone Service Center 8 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday toll-free at 1 (888) 421-8080 to have an application mailed to you or apply over the phone.

YOUR RIGHTS

Whether you are eligible or not, you have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and courtesy when you apply for CalWORKs, CWES or WIOA services. The Human Services Department does not discriminate against anyone because of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, religion, age, sex, sexual or gender orientation, marital status, pregnancy, physical or mental disability, ethnic group identification, or domestic partnership. If you believe that you have not been treated equally, contact the County Civil Rights Coordinator at (831) 454-4117.

This Fact Sheet is not a substitute for State Welfare-to-Work, CalWORKs, or Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act regulations.