SAN FRANCISCO
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Fact Sheet

Effective October 1, 2026

CalWORKs provides cash assistance and services to needy California families with dependent children. The San Francisco Human Services Agency operates the CalWORKs program in the County of San Francisco. The program is governed and paid for by Federal, State, and San Francisco County funds.

San Francisco CalWORKs monthly benefits are distributed according to California standard allowances. Eligibility for benefits is based on family size, income, property, and special needs. Families or pregnant individuals may apply for CalWORKs regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, political beliefs, marital status, sex, or disability.

Qualifying for CalWORKs Benefits

Families may qualify for CalWORKs if the family meets deprivation, income, property, and residency requirements.

Deprivation

To qualify under deprivation, a child (0-18 years old) in the household must meet one of the following factors:

- The child has been relinquished for adoption
- Either parent is deceased
- Either parent is physically or mentally disabled
- Either parent is absent from the child's home
- The primary wage earner parent is unemployed (Working less than 100 hours in 28 days)

Income

1. To be eligible for CalWORKs, the family must not have earned or unearned income over the Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC) limit. A standard deduction of $450 per employed adult is subtracted from each family's total gross earnings. Other deductions apply for unearned income such as child support, disability, and unemployment payments.

Family Size / Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC) Limit

Region 1 effective 7/1/26 through 6/30/27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$963	$1,581	$1,960	$2,325	$2,653	$2,983	$3,280	$3,569	$3,872	$4,202

For AUs of more than 10, add $37 for each extra person.

2. If the family's income is less than the MBSAC limit (table above), the total earned and unearned income of the family must be less than the family's grant payment (See MAP table below). The two grant payment standards for CalWORKs are: "Non-exempt" or "Exempt".

   Generally, families headed by parents who are considered available for employment will receive the lower grant amount. These families are referred to as "Non-exempt." Families headed by parents who receive certain disability benefits or families headed by non-needy/non-parent relatives receive the higher monthly grant and are referred to as "Exempt".

Maximum Aid Payment (MAP)

Region 1 effective October 1, 2026

Persons on Aid	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 or more
Non-exempt MAP	$747	$947	$1,196	$1,441	$1,689	$1,936	$2,184	$2,432	$2,678	$2,928
Exempt	$824	$1,058	$1,338	$1,607	$1,883	$2,161	$2,438	$2,717	$2,992	$3,273

Property

The property limit is $12,552 per family. If someone in the CalWORKs family is aged or disabled, the property limit increases to $18,829. Items counted as property, include, but are not limited to cash, savings, securities, stocks, and checking accounts.

Excluded Property

1. A home owned and occupied by the family, regardless of its value.
2. One motor vehicle valued at $33,626 or less. If your vehicle is valued over $33,626, the excess amount over $33,626 is counted as property. The value of any additional vehicles is also counted.
3. Household items and furnishings, such as furniture, major and small appliances, television, and musical systems.
4. Other personal property such as jewelry, musical instruments, and power tools.
5. Personal effects such as clothing, wedding and engagement rings, heirlooms, and prosthetic devices.

Residence

Your intent to reside in California and in San Francisco is required. Noncitizens must document legal U.S. entry status. The sponsor of a noncitizen who applies for CalWORKs is still responsible for the noncitizen's support. A portion of the sponsor's resources and income is "deemed" available to the noncitizen, and is used to determine CalWORKs eligibility, but there may be exceptions to that rule.

Work Requirements

All family members must work or participate in an activity through the CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work program, except:

- Children under 16 years old
- Persons over 59 years of age
- Children 16 through 18 years of age enrolled in full-time school
- A mother or caretaker of a child under 6 months old

Age and School Regulations

Children 16 through 17 years of age must regularly attend school. Children who are 16 or 17 years old must be in school full-time or participating in the Welfare-to-Work program. 18-year-old dependents in a household must be in high school or a vocational-technical school full-time and expect to complete school before age 19. 16 or 17-year-olds who have graduated from high school or passed the California High School Proficiency Exam and are enrolled, or intend to enroll, in postsecondary, vocational, or technical school, are exempt from this rule.

Immunizations

All applicants/recipients must provide verification that each child under the age of six has the required age-appropriate immunizations.

Pregnancy

Pregnant individuals may be eligible for a $100 pregnancy special need allowance.

Periodic Reporting Responsibility

CalWORKs recipients are required to report specific income changes and family circumstances on an annual and mid-period basis due to the Semi-Annual Reporting (SAR) and Annual Reporting/Child-Only (AR/CO) reporting systems. Periodic eligibility and income reporting is required for continued eligibility determination. The purpose of annual and semi-annual reporting is to show address changes, children's school attendance, employment, income and property, and expenses.

Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal is automatically issued to everyone receiving CalWORKs. Doctor, hospital and dental bills, medicine, glasses, and other medical needs may be paid for within the limitations of the Medi-Cal program.

CalFresh (Food Stamps)

CalFresh enables low-income families to buy more food. Families receiving CalWORKs may be eligible for CalFresh.

Other Free or Low Cost Services

CalWORKs recipients may qualify for services such as, childcare, housing assistance, employment and counseling services.

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Where to Apply for CalWORKs

In Person	San Francisco Human Services Agency 170 Otis St – 1st Floor Reception Area 3120 Mission St – 1st Floor Reception Area Hours: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Telephone	(855) 557-5100
Online	www.BenefitsCal.com

If you Have a Disability

Let us know if you have a disability and need help to apply. We may be able to arrange for a home visit or other assistance specific to your needs. You may request special assistance by calling (855) 557-5100. If you are already receiving benefits and need special assistance, contact your CalWORKs Case Manager.

State Fair Hearing

You have the right to a State Fair Hearing if you are not satisfied with the outcome of your case. You may also file an appeal if there are unnecessary delays in processing your application, or if you believe that your worker did not understand the facts in determining your grant or your eligibility for CalWORKs or CalFresh benefits.

You may request a State Fair Hearing within 90 days of the San Francisco Human Services Agency action by completing the back of the Notice of Action you received and mailing it to:

Appeals Unit
Department of Human Services
P.O. BOX 7988, S600
San Francisco, CA 94120

Important: CalWORKs regulations are available by request.
This handout does not substitute for CalWORKs regulations.

CW 15 - CalWORKs Fact Sheet (10/26)