AB 1746 – Childcare Applications

Assemblymember Laurie Davies

ISSUE

CalWORKs beneficiaries working or engage in an educational or training activity needing childcare do not have a simple application to apply for childcare. There are counties that have less than 20% participation rates while others have up to 80%. This is because each county has a different county enrollment practice and not statewide application to apply for childcare.

April 2025 Data from the WtW 25 and CW 115 Reports	Unduplicated Participants	Families Getting Child Care	Percentage of Unduplicated Participants Getting Child Care
Statewide	85,764	29,084	34%
Stanislaus	1,697	178	10%
Sacramento	7,237	827	11%
San Diego	6,092	858	14%
Orange	3,318	525	16%
Tehama	217	35	16%
Mendocino	285	48	17%
Imperial	1,134	202	18%
Madera	290	184	63%
Marin	157	107	68%
San Francisco	805	626	78%
Alameda	1,251	1,056	84%

BACKGROUND & CURRENT LAW

Currently in the State of California the childcare application is only made available to a CalWORKs family at application.

The CCP 7 form, which is not an application, but a request for childcare at application. This is the only time that the CCP 7 is made available to beneficiaries of CalWORKs.

After application the CCP is not made available to beneficiaries of CalWORKs.

CalWORKs beneficiaries who are working or engage in an educational or training activity do not have access to a simple application form to apply for childcare.

In many counties CalWORKs beneficiaries who are working or engage in an educational or training activity don't even have a worker assigned to them – they must use the county call center to request childcare.

California's county welfare department call centers are known to have long delays, like more than an hour or more.

CalWORKs beneficiaries who are working or engage in an educational or training activity often cannot get through the call-center on their break or lunch hours.

CDSS has a form for an application for CalWORKs, CalFresh, Homeless Assistance, Application for Dog Special Allowance (ADSA 1L), Refugee Services Application (RS 1) Transitional Housing Program application (SOC 171) IHSS application (SOC 295) Child Welfare Services Application (SOC 383)

PROPOSED LAW

This bill would provide that at the time of application, annual renewal, semi-annual renewal and anytime there is a contact with the CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work program and what the county is required to notify the applicant or recipient pursuant to W&IC § 11323.3.

This change will ensure individuals and families in the CalWORKs program will have more opportunities to request childcare and continue on in the program. No person should have to choose between childcare insecurity or going to work.

SPONSOR

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