



2019-2021

CalWORKs Legislative Report

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office | Sonya Christian, Chancellor



California
Community
Colleges

SONYA CHRISTIAN
Chancellor

October 10, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CalWORKs Legislative Report

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Board of Governors for the California Community Colleges, I am pleased to present to you the California Community Colleges report on the CalWORKs program. This report is written in response to Education Code 79207.

In this report, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office presents a detailed summary on how CalWORKs been expended throughout the system to advance achievement goals for all students, with an emphasis on student parents current receiving CalWORKs benefits.

Executive Vice Chancellor for the Equitable Student Learning, Experience and Impact Office Aisha Lowe may be contacted for questions and comments at ALowe@CCCCO.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonya Christian".

Sonya Christian
Chancellor

Enclosure: Report

Chancellor's Office

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2019-2021 CALWORKS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Prepared By

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office

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BACKGROUND

The California Community Colleges California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Program provides education, training, support services and job opportunities to individuals receiving CalWORKs services from the county. CalWORKs program funds are for the purpose of assisting individuals in achieving long-term self-sufficiency through coordinated student services offered at community colleges.

This report includes information from the past three academic years on the:

1. Use of funds (program spending by category).
2. Number of CalWORKs students enrolled.
3. Number of CalWORKs students receiving case management services.
4. Number of hours of childcare services provided.
5. Average monthly enrollment of CalWORKs recipient dependents served in childcare.
6. Number of work study hours provided.
7. Hourly salaries and type of jobs in which CalWORKs recipients were placed.
8. Types of degrees, certificates and awards obtained by CalWORKs students.

CALWORKS FUNDING

CalWORKs program funding must be utilized as prescribed in California Education Code, section 79200 through section 79209. CalWORKs can help students receiving public assistance get access to vital services to help guide them along their educational journey. Program services include the following: work study, childcare, job development and placement, and case management and counseling.

Table 1. CalWORKs Spending by Category

Category	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Coordination	\$32,635,752	\$33,410,203	\$33,157,787
Work Study	\$8,262,163	\$4,126,330	\$4,656,750
Childcare	\$773,657	\$394,170	\$226,411
Job Development	\$4,484,292	\$3,714,136	\$3,869,586
Other Direct Student Support	\$2,386,177	\$3,969,436	\$3,794,650
Total	\$48,542,041	\$45,614,275	\$45,705,184

CALWORKS STUDENTS ENROLLED AND SERVED BY ELIGIBILITY DESIGNATION

CalWORKs student eligibility is categorized in four areas:

- **County-Referred Program Participant** students are referred to the community college by the county welfare office with an approved welfare-to-work plan.
- **Self-Initiated Program Participant** students are eligible for program services and are enrolled in a community college prior to county appraisal.
- **Self-Referred Program Participant** students applied for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program cash aid before enrolling at the community college and are in the process of obtaining an approved welfare-to-work plan through their county welfare office.
- **Exempt Program Participant** students are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program recipients who are exempted from participation in all or part of the required welfare-to-work activities. These students may volunteer to participate.

Table 2. CalWORKs Students – Statewide

2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
17,336	11,502	11,106

Table 3. CalWORKs Students by Eligibility Designation

Eligibility Designation	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
County-Referred	13,717	9,185	9,360
Self-Initiated & Self-Referred	3,102	2,014	1,550
Exempt	514	299	193

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

All CalWORKs students were provided with an assessment and/or some other case management service(s). Case management services includes academic and general counseling, work study placement, financial aid assistance, and coordination with available supportive services.

Table 4. CalWORKs Students Provided with Case Management Services

Category	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Received Needs Assessment Services	1,998	1,272	966
Received Other Case Management Services	3,208	2,498	2,225
Received Both Needs Assessment Services and Other Case Management Services	13,017	8,133	8,408

Table 5. Childcare Services

Category	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Number of Dependents	70,105	45,574	42,203
Unduplicated Count of Children Served	3,827	1,780	1,387
Count of Students Whose Children Received On-Campus Care	145	30	24
Hours in On-Campus Care	34,190	4,766	4,903
Count of Students Whose Children Received Off-Campus Care	2,215	1,060	750
Hours in Off-Campus Care	191,998	105,738	81,440

WORK STUDY

CalWORKs Work Study is a subsidized employment program that provides CalWORKs students with an opportunity to gain valuable paid work experience that enhances their employability and helps to increase the overall income of their families. Work Study placements also enable CalWORKs students to meet their work participation requirements; this helps counties to meet the work requirements established by the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program guidelines.

Table 6.1 2019-20 Work Study Activity Details

Work Activity	Number of Positions Held	Unduplicated Student Count	Unduplicated Count of Students Provided Employment Services
On-Campus Work Study	3,745	1,885	1,074
Off-Campus Work Study	381	210	136
Total	4,126	2,095	1,210

Table 6.2: Work Study Activity Details, 2020-2021

Work Activity	Number of Positions Held	Unduplicated Student Count	Unduplicated Count of Students Provided Employment Services
On-Campus Work Study	1,695	907	450
Off-Campus Work Study	281	143	76
Total	1,976	1,050	526

Table 6.3: Work Study Activity Details, 2021-2022

Work Activity	Number of Positions Held	Unduplicated Student Count	Unduplicated Count of Students Provided Employment Services
On-Campus Work Study	1,457	771	405
Off-Campus Work Study	304	152	94
Total	1,761	923	499

Table 7: Number of Hours Worked in Work Study Assignments

Number of Hours	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Less than 10 hours per week	257	128	85
10 - 19.99 hours per week	1,194	626	574
20 – 29.99 hours per week	2,536	1,161	1,029
30 or more hours per week	139	61	73

Table 8.1: Work-Study Jobs Held by CalWORKs Students

Job Type	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Office Tech / Computer Applications	1,254	561	522
Customer Service	842	472	410
Business and Commerce, General	474	218	170
Child Development/Early Care & Education	195	68	59
Education, General	-	-	91
General Work Experience	179	65	68
Human Services	119	56	53
Culinary Arts	89	-	-

Job Type	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Educational Aid (Teacher Assistant)	85	48	50
Library Technician/Aid	78	-	-
Information Technology, General	44	-	-
Biology, General	34	-	-
Other	733	488	372

WORK STUDY WAGES

Table 9.1: Work Study Wages Earned by Students in CalWORKs, 2019-2021

Number of Hours	2019-2020	2020-2021
Less than \$5.75 per hour	0	1
\$5.75 to \$8.00 per hour	2	0
\$8.01 to \$10.00 per hour	10	4
\$10.01 or more per hour	4,114	1,971

Table 9.2: Work Study Wages Earned by Students in CalWORKs, 2021-2022

Starting in FY 2021-2022, data collected better reflected current salary trends. The California Department of Labor guidelines state that although there are some exceptions, almost all employees in California must be paid the minimum wage as required by state law. The current minimum wage in California is \$15.50 per hour effective January 2023. Some cities and counties have higher minimum wages than the state’s rate

Number of Hours	2021-2022
Up to \$14 per hour	640
\$14 - \$16 per hour	1,022
\$16 - \$18 per hour	90
\$18 - \$20 per hour	23
More than \$20 per hour	20

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

The table below displays the types of degrees, certificates and awards that CalWORKs students obtained.

Table 10: Degrees and Certificates Awarded to CalWORKs Students

Type of Degree/ Certificate	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Associate of Arts Degree	3,052	2,926	1,984
Associate of Science Degree	1,789	1,692	1,148
Certificate 60+ units	10	18	5
Certificate 30-59 units	1,453	1,395	987
Certificate 6-17 units	497	394	247
Certificate <6 units	53	41	19
Non-credit awards	891	761	193
Total	7,751	7,227	4,583

CONCLUSION

The California Community Colleges CalWORKs program provides critical services to a highly vulnerable population, students with dependents who are subject to strict state-based time restrictions associated with successfully completing their educational and career goals. Ongoing coordination between the college CalWORKs and county health and human services staff is essential to the success of these students. The supplemental services and resources provided help ensure that CalWORKs students are able to complete their goals and enter the workforce in a timely manner. Support provided through the CalWORKs program coupled with equitable financial aid resources will positively impact student outcomes, improve their employment prospects and increase their long-term self-sufficiency goals. In addition to supporting current CalWORKs students, the secondary beneficiaries of the program are the students' children. By observing their parents successfully navigating family responsibilities, completing their education and entering the workforce they are exposed, at a young age, to the wide reaching educational and career opportunities available to California community college students. Investing in CalWORKs students supports self-sufficiency for the immediate generation and has the potential to break the cycle of public benefit dependency for future generations.

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Pierce College

Photo at right: College of the
Desert

Back cover photo: LA Valley
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