



2023-24 REPORT

CalWORKs

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



California
Community
Colleges

SONYA CHRISTIAN
Chancellor

July 11, 2025

Office of Legislative Counsel
Indexing Unit
925 L St., Suite 1105
Sacramento, CA 95814-3703

RE: CalWORKs Recipients Education Program

Dear Secretary Contreras,

Pursuant to California Education Code subdivisions (c) and (d) of Section 79207, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the Board of Governors for California Community Colleges are pleased to release the CalWORKs Recipients Education Program report.

This report covers the past academic year, including:

- Program spending by category
- Number of CalWORKs students enrolled and receiving case management services
- Childcare services provided and average monthly enrollment of recipient dependents
- Work study hours and hourly wages for CalWORKs recipients
- Degrees, certificates, and awards obtained by CalWORKs students

For any questions regarding this report, please contact Mia Keeley, dean, at MKeeley@CCCCO.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonya Christian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sonya" and last name "Christian" clearly distinguishable.

Sonya Christian, Chancellor

Enclosure: Report

CC:
Office of the Governor
Office of Legislative Counsel
Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Department of Finance
Legislative Analyst
State Department of Social Services

Chancellor's Office

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FY 2023-24 CALWORKS LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Prepared By

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Student Services Division

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BACKGROUND	1
CALWORKS FUNDING.	1
CALWORKS STUDENTS ENROLLED AND SERVED BY ELIGIBILITY DESIGNATION	2
CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES.	3
WORK STUDY	3
DEGREE ATTAINMENT	5
CONCLUSION	5

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 economic mobility through coordinated student services offered at community colleges.

This report includes information from the past academic year 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	2023-2024
Coordination	\$40,632,412
Work Study	\$6,701,748
Childcare	\$351,563
Job Development	\$5,679,863
Other Direct Student Support	\$4,718,602
Total	\$58,084,188

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

2023-2024
22,979

Table 3. CalWORKs Students by Eligibility Designation

Eligibility Designation	2023-2024
County-Referred	16,927
Self-Initiated & Self-Referred	5,900
Exempt	152

CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

All CalWORKs students were provided with an assessment and/or some other case management service(s).¹ Case management services include 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	2023-2024
Received Needs Assessment Services	1,592
Received Other Case Management Services	4,266
Received Both	18,188

Table 5. Childcare Services

Category	2023-2024
Number of Dependents	89,015
Unduplicated Count of Children Served	2,837
Count of Students Whose Children Received On-Campus Care	69
Hours in On-Campus Care	9,748
Count of Students Whose Children Received Off-Campus Care	1,197
Hours in Off-Campus Care	112,181

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. Work Study Activity Details

Work Activity	Number of Positions Held	Unduplicated Student Count	Unduplicated Count of Students Provided Employment Services
On-Campus Work Study	2,134	1,025	532
Off-Campus Work Study	374	197	87
Total	2,508	1,222	619

1. All case management services provided through the CalWORKs program are campus-based, do not duplicate services offered by county caseworkers, and do not supplant counseling or academic support funded by other California Community Colleges categorical programs.

Table 7. – Number of Hours Worked in Work Study Assignments

Number of Hours	2023-2024
Less than 10 hours per week	147
10 - 19.99 hours per week	633
20 – 29.99 hours per week	1,608
30 or more hours per week	120

Table 8. Work Study Jobs Held by CalWORKs Students

Job Type	2023-2024
Office Tech / Computer Applications	766
Customer Service	664
Business and Commerce, General	256
Child Development/Early Care & Education	108
Education, General	72
General Work Experience	70
Human Services	137
Culinary Arts	15
Educational Aid (Teacher Assistant)	27
Library Technician/Aide	28
Information Technology, General	12
Biology, General	14
Other	339

Table 9. Work Study Wages Earned by CalWORKs Students

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 \$16.50 per hour effective January 2025. Some cities and counties have higher minimum wages than the state's rate.

Number of Hours	2023-2024
Up to \$14 per hour	78
\$14 - \$16 per hour	1,420
\$16 - \$18 per hour	812
\$18 - \$20 per hour	104
More than \$20 per hour	94

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

Table 10. Degrees and Certificates Awarded to CalWORKs Students

Type of Degree/ Certificate	2023-24
Baccalaureate of Science Degree	0
Associate of Science for Transfer Degree	258
Associate of Arts for Transfer Degree	498
Associate of Arts Degree	1,034
Associate of Science Degree	604
Certificate 60+ units	13
Certificate 30-59 units	786
Certificate 16-29 units	678
Certificate 8-15 units	474
Certificate <6 units	22
Non-credit awards	1,859
Total	6,226

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 economic mobility for the immediate generation and has the potential to break the cycle of public benefit dependency for future generations.

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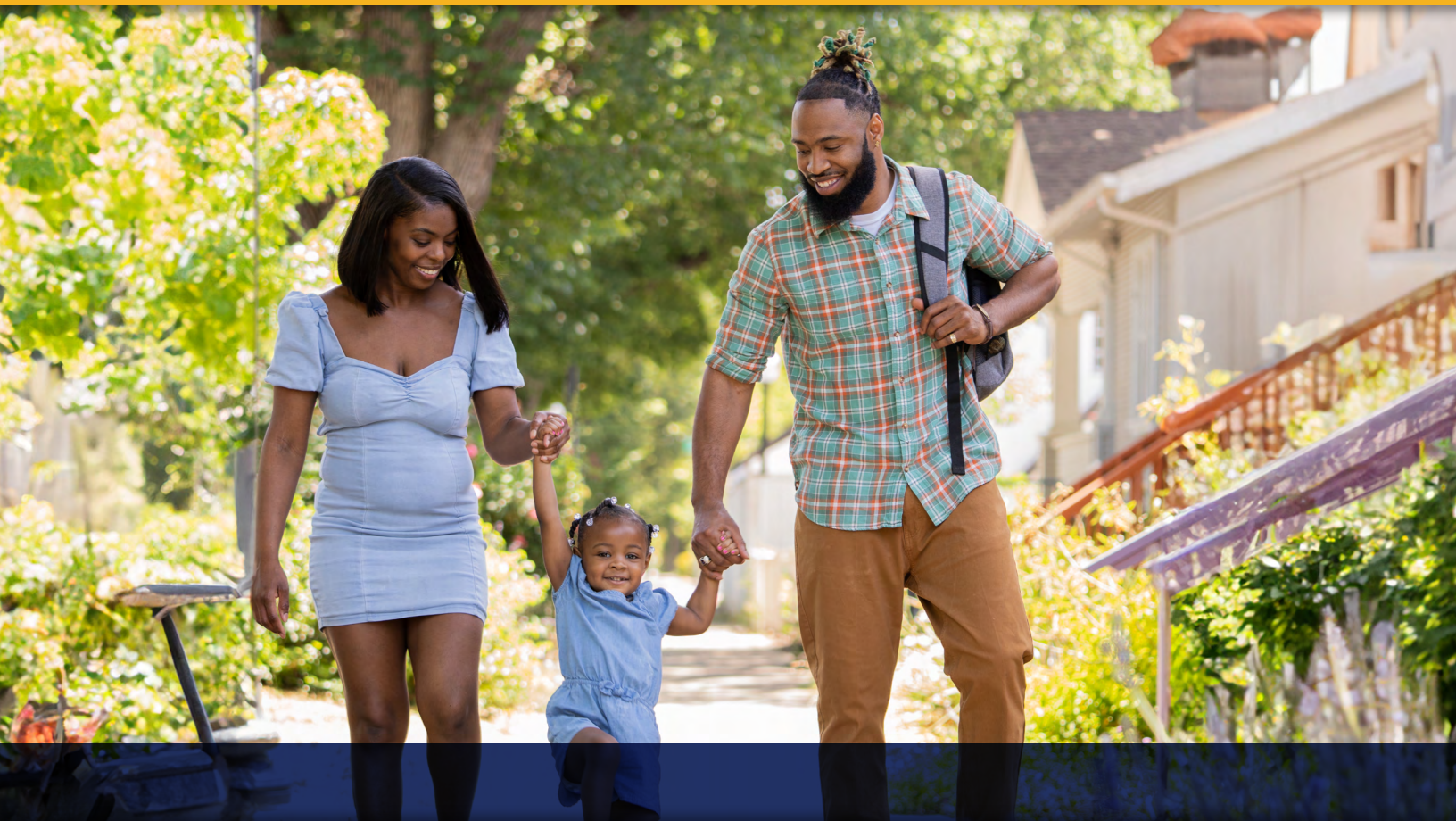
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