



2024-25 REPORT

CaIWORKS

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



California
Community
Colleges

SONYA CHRISTIAN
Chancellor

March 17, 2026

Secretary of the Senate
Erika Contreras
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: CalWORKs Recipients Education Program

Dear Secretary Contreras,

Pursuant to California Education Code section 79207(c), the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is pleased to release the CalWORKs Recipients Education Program report.

This report covers the past academic year, including program spending by category; the number of CalWORKs students enrolled and receiving case management services; childcare services provided and the average monthly enrollment of recipient dependents; work study hours and hourly wages for CalWORKs recipients; and the 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".

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's Office
State Department of Social Services

Chancellor's Office

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2024-25 CALWORKS REPORT

Prepared By

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Educational Services and Support Division

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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 economic mobility through coordinated student services offered at community colleges.

This report includes information from the past academic year on the:

- Use of funds (program spending by category).
- Number of CalWORKs students enrolled.
- Number of CalWORKs students receiving case management services.
- Number of hours of childcare services provided.
- Average monthly enrollment of CalWORKs recipient dependents served in childcare.
- Number of work study hours provided.
- Hourly salaries and type of jobs in which CalWORKs recipients were placed.
- 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	2024-25
Coordination (includes case management and coordination with county welfare offices)	\$41,848,283
Work Study	\$5,844,953
Childcare	\$590,914
Job Development (includes job placement and post-employment skills training)	\$5,428,550
Other Direct Student Support	\$4,901,098
Instruction	\$18,026
Total	\$58,631,824

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

2024-25
25,200

Table 3. CalWORKs Students by Eligibility Designation

Eligibility Designation	2024-25
County-Referred	18,119
Self-Initiated & Self-Referred	6,933
Exempt	148

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

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 4. CalWORKs Students Provided with Case Management Services

Category	2024-25
Received Needs Assessment Services	1,522
Received Other Case Management Services	4,718
Received Both	20,325

Table 5. Childcare Services²

Category	2024-25
Number of Dependents	99,100
Unduplicated Count of Children Served	2,799
Count of Students Whose Children Received On-Campus Care	82
Hours in On-Campus Care	20,589
Count of Students Whose Children Received Off-Campus Care	1,268
Hours in Off-Campus Care	155,122

WORK STUDY

The following provides a brief analysis of the report on noncredit CDCP enhanced funding for 2020–2025. This analysis summarizes noncredit FTES data over the reporting period and identifies factors contributing to data volatility. Management has requested additional study to further assess the implications of these trends.

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	2,052	969	520
Off-Campus Work Study	322	172	82
Total	2,374	1,141	602

Table 7. Number of Hours Worked in Work Study Assignments

Number of Hours	2024-2025
Less than 10 hours per week	135
10 - 19.99 hours per week	843
20 – 29.99 hours per week	1,351
30 or more hours per week	45

² The Chancellor’s Office does not currently have a mechanism to collect monthly enrollment data for CalWORKs recipient dependents receiving childcare services. Accordingly, the data provided reflects the total unduplicated number of children served over the full academic year, rather than month-by-month enrollment figures.

Table 8. Work Study Jobs Held by CalWORKs Students

Job Type	2024-2025
Office Tech / Computer Applications	807
Customer Service	601
Business and Commerce, General	223
Child Development/Early Care & Education	70
Education, General	91
General Work Experience	71
Human Services	102
Culinary Arts	19
Educational Aid (Teacher Assistant)	34
Library Technician/Aide	17
Information Technology, General	12
Biology, General	9
Other	318

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 \$16.90 per hour effective January 2026. Some cities and counties have higher minimum wages than the state's rate.

Table 9. Work Study Wages Earned by CalWORKs Students

Number of Hours	2024-2025
Up to \$14 per hour	37
\$14 - \$16 per hour	810
\$16 - \$18 per hour	1,279
\$18 - \$20 per hour	142
More than \$20 per hour	106

DEGREE ATTAINMENT

Table 10. Degrees and Certificates Awarded to CalWORKs Students

Type of Degree/ Certificate	2024-25
Baccalaureate of Science Degree	0
Associate of Science for Transfer Degree	329
Associate of Arts for Transfer Degree	586

Type of Degree/ Certificate	2024-25
Associate of Arts Degree	1,303
Associate of Science Degree	710
Certificate 60+ units	16
Certificate 30-59 units	905
Certificate 16-29 units	853
Certificate 8-15 units	346
Certificate <6 units	33
Non-credit awards	2,384
Total	7,465

CONCLUSION

The California Community Colleges CalWORKs program delivers essential services to a highly vulnerable population—students with dependents who must navigate strict, state-imposed time limits while pursuing their educational and career goals. Ongoing collaboration between college CalWORKs programs and county health and human services agencies is critical to student success. The supplemental services and resources provided through this partnership enable CalWORKs students to complete their education efficiently and transition into the workforce.

Support offered through the CalWORKs program, when combined with equitable financial aid, significantly enhances student outcomes, strengthens employment prospects, and promotes long-term economic advancement. Beyond serving current participants, the program also benefits students’ children. By witnessing their parents successfully balance family responsibilities, complete their education, and secure employment, children are exposed early to the broad educational and career opportunities available through California’s community colleges. Investing in CalWORKs students advances economic mobility for the present generation and holds the potential to break cycles of public assistance dependency for future generations.

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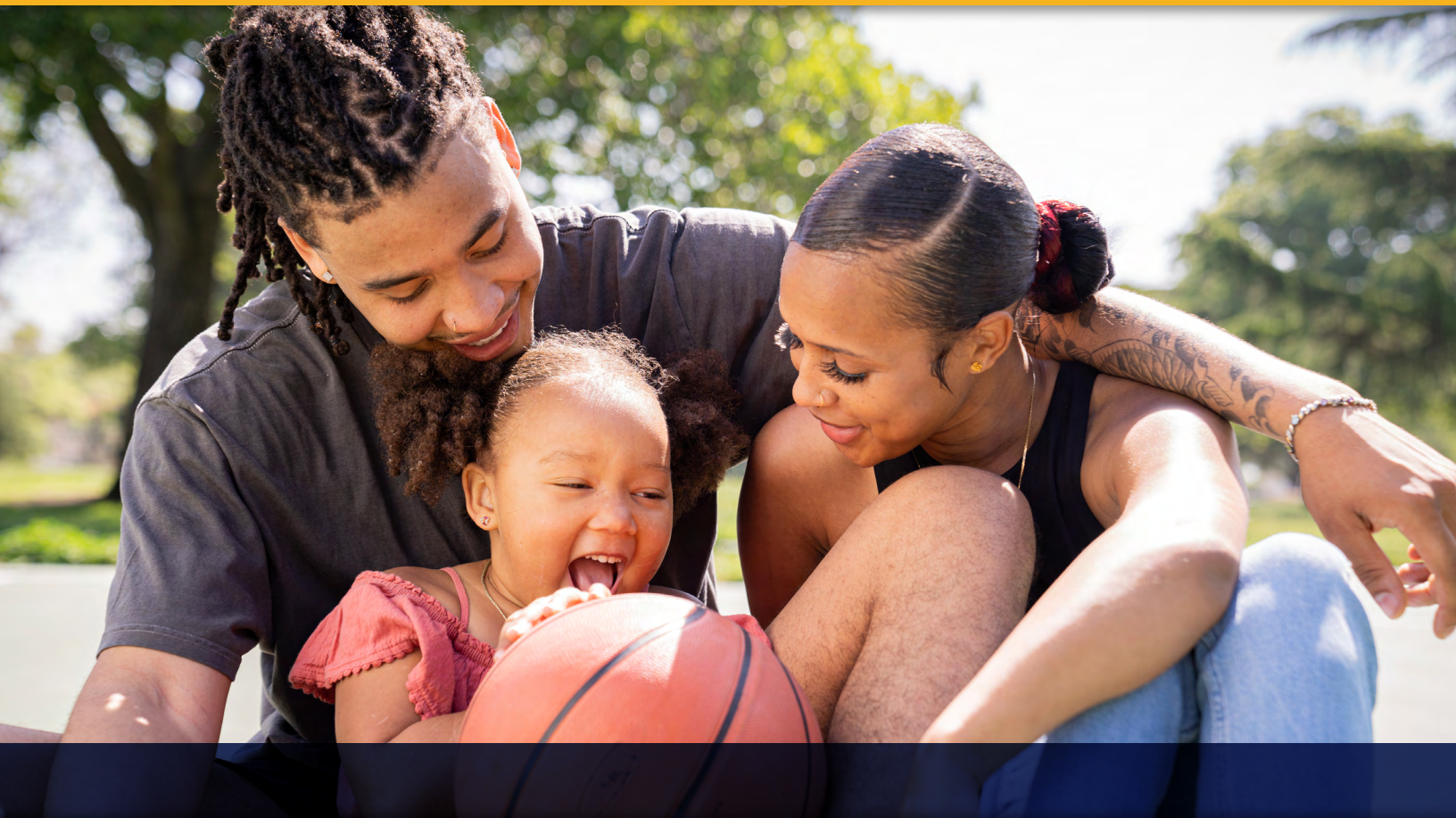
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