

Date of Hearing: March 24, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Alex Lee, Chair

AB 1746 (Davies) – As Introduced February 9, 2026

SUBJECT: CalWORKs: childcare request forms

SUMMARY: Removes the requirement for a California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) applicant or recipient to be provided with written notice during the time of application, and when a recipient signs any welfare-to-work plan, that there is available childcare, and instead, requires the county to provide a CalWORKs applicant or recipient with a childcare request form CCP 7, or its successor form at additional events. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires the childcare request form CCP 7, or its successor form, to be provided:
 - a) At the time of application;
 - b) Upon approval for CalWORKs benefits; and,
 - c) Each time the applicant or recipient is provided with any of the following:
 - i) Annual certificate of eligibility, as described in 5) under existing law;
 - ii) Semiannual report form as described in 6) under existing law;
 - iii) An original or amended welfare-to-work plan; or,
 - iv) Welfare-to-work appointment notice if the family had not previously indicated a need for childcare.
- 2) Requires the CCP 7 form to inform applicants of the following:
 - a) Paid childcare is available to allow them to be employed or participate in welfare-to-work activities or program activities in 3) under existing law;
 - b) The name and contact information for the local childcare resource and referral program;
 - c) Assistance in finding and choosing a childcare provider is available;
 - d) A recipient is required to inform the county welfare department of the recipient's need for paid childcare as soon as that need arises;
 - e) The recipient is required to request a childcare subsidy from the county within 30 days from the first day childcare services are received from each different provider, to be fully reimbursed for childcare services; and,
 - f) Rules regarding retroactive payments.
- 3) Requires a county, upon receipt, to approve or deny a CalWORKs childcare request form CCP 7, or its successor form, within 10 working days.

- 4) Requires the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to implement this act through an all-county letter or similar instruction on or before June 1, 2027, until regulations are adopted.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires CalWORKs applicants or recipients to be informed of the availability of childcare services upon enrollment in the CalWORKs program, and during later times when a participant expresses to the county a need for childcare. Requires the county to verify if childcare is needed to participate in a program activity. (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] § 11323.3 (a))
- 2) Requires CalWORKs applicants or recipients to receive written notice at the time of application and when they sign an original or amended welfare-to-work plan, of the availability of paid childcare. Requires the written notice to inform the applicants of:
 - a) Paid childcare is available to allow them to be employed or participate in welfare-to-work activities or program activities, as defined in 3) below;
 - b) The name and contact information for the local childcare resource and referral program;
 - c) Assistance in finding and choosing a childcare provider is available;
 - d) A recipient is required to inform the county welfare department of the recipient's need for paid childcare as soon as that need arises; and,
 - e) The recipient is required to request a childcare subsidy from the county within 30 days from the first day childcare services are received from each different provider, to be fully reimbursed for childcare services. (WIC § 11323.3 (b))
- 3) Requires necessary supportive services to be offered and available to every participant to enable them to participate in a program activity or to accept or maintain employment. Requires supportive services to be listed in the welfare-to-work plan or other agreement entered into between the county and participant. Supportive services include childcare, diaper costs, and transportation costs. (WIC § 11323.2 (a))
- 4) Specifies the following requirements for childcare supportive services:
 - a) Paid childcare shall be available to every participant with a dependent child in the household who needs paid childcare if the child is 12 years of age or under, or requires childcare or supervision due to a physical, mental, or developmental disability or other similar condition as verified by the county human services agency, or who is under court supervision. A county human services agency may verify the need for childcare or supervision for a child over 12 years of age from an individualized education plan or a statement from a qualified professional that the child is a child with exceptional needs. A sanctioned participant shall have access to childcare pursuant to this section if the participant has indicated an intent to engage in a program activity or employment, but has not yet participated;

- b) First-stage childcare shall be full time, unless the participant determines that part-time care better meets the family's needs. Upon establishing initial or ongoing eligibility for first-stage childcare services, a family shall be considered to have met all eligibility and need requirements and be authorized for not less than 24 months, or until the participant is transferred to the second stage of childcare. This shall apply to every participant who indicates a need for childcare in order to engage in a program activity or employment. A participant may, at any time, indicate a new or increased need for childcare and the information shall be used, as applicable, to authorize childcare or increase the family's services; and,
 - c) Necessary childcare services shall be available to every former recipient for up to two years. Beginning January 1, 2021, or the date that automation changes occur, as required for implementation, in the Statewide Automated Welfare System, whichever date is later, in the 18th month following the date of last receipt of aid, the county shall send a notice, via mail to the last known address, text message, or email, to a former recipient who is not currently receiving second- or third-stage childcare informing them that their eligibility for stage-two childcare will expire by the end of the 24th month following their last receipt of aid, and how to obtain stage-two childcare services. (WIC § 11323.2 (a)(1))
- 5) Requires the county to redetermine CalWORKs eligibility annually. Requires the county to, at the time of the redetermination, and at other intervals as may be deemed necessary, require the family to complete a certificate of eligibility containing a written declaration of the information that may be required to establish the continuing eligibility and amount of grant. (WIC § 11265)
- 6) Establishes CalWORKs semiannual reporting including:
- a) Counties must redetermine recipient eligibility and grant amounts on a semiannual basis in a prospective manner, using reasonably anticipated income consistent with Section 5 of the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. Sec. 2014(f)(3)(A)) and any subsequent amendments thereto, implementing regulations, and any waivers obtained by CDSS. Counties must use the information reported on a recipient's semiannual report form or annual certificate of eligibility to prospectively determine eligibility and the grant amount for each semiannual reporting period;
 - b) A semiannual reporting period is six consecutive calendar months. A semiannual report form must be required during the first semiannual reporting period following the application or annual redetermination;
 - c) The recipient shall submit a semiannual report form during the first semiannual reporting period following the application or annual redetermination of eligibility; and,
 - d) Counties shall provide a semiannual report form to recipients at the end of the fifth month of the semiannual reporting period, and recipients shall return the completed semiannual report form with required verification to the county by the 11th day of the sixth month of the semiannual reporting period. (WIC § 11265.1)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown, this bill has not been analyzed by a fiscal committee.

COMMENTS:

Background: *CalWORKs Childcare.* Eligible CalWORKs recipients can receive paid childcare. To be eligible, CalWORKs recipients must be working or participating in an approved county welfare-to-work activity, which includes any county-approved CalWORKs activities or employment listed in the recipients' welfare-to-work plan. Childcare is broken up into three stages:

- 1) CalWORKs Stage One Child Care provides childcare to CalWORKs families when they are determined eligible for CalWORKs and are not exempt from participating in welfare-to-work activities. CDSS administers the Stage One child care program through the county welfare departments. Counties may contract with local Alternative Payment Program agencies to administer Stage One.
- 2) CalWORKs Stage Two Child Care is for families when the counties determine they are stable. For example, after six months of participation in a welfare-to-work plan or after being employed, or when the parent(s) or guardian(s) are discontinued from cash aid. The counties have the flexibility to determine when a family's situation is stable. Families remain in Stage Two until they have been off cash aid for two years. CDSS contracts with Alternative Payment Program agencies to administer this program
- 3) CalWORKs Stage Three Child Care is used for families that have exhausted two years of CalWORKs Stage Two Child Care. This program provides care contingent upon available funding and continued family eligibility. CDSS contracts with Alternative Payment Program agencies to administer this program.

Childcare under CalWORKs is permitted with eligible providers only. Eligible providers are limited to licensed child care providers, providers who are not licensed but have their background checked and become registered through a program called "TrustLine", or grandparents, aunts, or uncles of the children, with a completed form called a Declaration of Exemption From TrustLine Registration and Health and Safety Self-Certification.

The state reimburses childcare for children under 13 years of age, and for older children with disabilities that prevent them from being left alone. In two-parent families, if a parent is home and able to care for the children, the state will not reimburse the childcare. The parent is considered available to provide care unless they are working, doing a county-approved welfare-to-work activity, or have a condition, verified by a doctor, that prevents them from caring for the child.

Currently, CalWORKs applicants are given notice that they might be eligible for childcare assistance at multiple points during their application process. Counties report that, at a minimum, eligibility workers give notice during the time of application as well as during planning for their welfare-to-work plan.

This bill would require eligibility workers to give applicants the "CCP 7" form, in addition to the current mandated times, during the following additional opportunities: upon approval for CalWORKs benefits, and each time the applicant or recipient is provided with any of the following, annual certificate of eligibility, a semiannual report form, and an original or amended welfare-to-work plan.

Author’s Statement: According to the Author, “For many California families, the lack of accessible childcare is the single greatest barrier to maintaining stable employment and achieving self-sufficiency. [This bill] simplifies the path for CalWORKs recipients by replacing outdated notices with a streamlined, mandatory childcare request form that requires a response within ten working days. By ensuring parents are informed of their options at every step, from application to annual renewal, we are removing the bureaucratic hurdles that far too often leave families in limbo. Our goal with this legislation is to provide our most vulnerable residents with the timely, reliable support they need to focus on their work and the future of their children.”

Equity Implications: Childcare is often a reported barrier to work or school. This disproportionately impacts women. Roughly 46% of unemployed mothers in 2021 cited childcare issues as their reason for leaving the workforce, disproportionately affecting women compared to men.¹ To address access to childcare, CalWORKs offers options, as discussed above; however, if recipients or applicants do not know this exists, they will be forced to continue to be unemployed. *This bill* may help raise awareness of the available services.

Arguments in Support: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO writes, “One of the most significant barriers CalWORKs participants face when attempting to engage in employment or supportive employment services is access to reliable childcare. While childcare assistance is available through the program, many participants are unaware of the full scope of benefits or the steps necessary to request and secure services. As a result, families may struggle to participate in required activities or accept employment opportunities.

“[This bill] helps address this challenge by ensuring that applicants and recipients are consistently informed about the availability of CalWORKs childcare assistance at key points throughout their participation in the program. By requiring counties to provide the CalWORKs childcare request form and clear written notice during application, eligibility renewals, employment services, and other program interactions, the bill promotes greater transparency and helps families access the childcare support they need.”

Arguments in Opposition: None on file.

Policy Considerations:

This bill strikes “written notice” and replaces it with “CCP 7”. While the intention is to ensure an application is given, CCP 7 is not defined, and a document that can change.

Should this bill move forward, the author may wish to revert to a written notice and specify that a written notice includes an application for childcare.

This bill attempts to ensure that families are aware that they can get access to childcare. When applying to CalWORKs, applicants receive a lot of information required by law. This may be overwhelming and result in information being missed.

¹ <https://www.ffyf.org/2023/03/08/the-first-five-things-you-need-to-know-impact-of-the-child-care-crisis-on-women-mothers/>

Should this bill move forward, the author may wish to require a verbal notice in addition to the written notice.

This bill requires a county to deny or approve an application within 10 days. In practice, a county may need additional information in order to approve the application. If a county is limited statutorily to only approve or deny, this may increase denials, when they may actually not have enough information to make a decision.

Should this bill move forward, the author may wish to add that the county has 10 days to request additional information, approve, or deny an application, rather than only denying or approving.

This bill also requires the form to be given regardless of whether someone is already receiving childcare. This may cause applicants to unnecessarily submit additional applications.

Should this bill move forward, the author may wish to specify that information is only needed to be shared if the applicant does not already have childcare.

Proposed Committee Amendments: In order to address the above policy considerations, the Committee proposes the Author take the following amendments:

Amendment 1

On page 3, strike out lines 3 to 22, inclusive, and insert: (b) An applicant for, or a recipient of, CalWORKs benefits shall be provided written notice, and verbally informed, of the availability of paid childcare, as provided in Section 11323.2, at the time of application, approval, and when they sign an original or amended welfare-to-work plan, annual certificate of eligibility as described in Section 11265, or a semiannual report form as described in Section 11265.1. The notice shall inform applicants and recipients of all of the following:

Amendment 2

On page 3, strike out lines 38 to 40, inclusive, on page 4, in line 2, strike out “(e)” and insert: (c) A written notice, as described in subdivision (b), shall be provided to an applicant or recipient only if the applicant or recipient is not already approved for childcare, as provided in Section 11323.2.

(d)

Amendment 3

On page 4, in line 2, strike out “2021,” and insert: 2028,

Amendment 4

On page 4, in line 5, strike out “form” and insert: written notice

Amendment 5

On page 4, in line 11, strike out “(f)” and insert: (e)

Amendment 6

On page 4, in line 11, strike out “form” and insert: written notice

Amendment 7

On page 4, in line 16, strike out “(g)” and insert: (f)

Amendment 8

On page 4, in line 17, strike out “form” and insert: written notice

Amendment 9

On page 4, in line 19, strike out “form.” and insert: notice.

Amendment 10

On page 4, in line 19, strike out the second “form” and insert: notice

Amendment 11

On page 4, in line 23, strike out “(h)” and insert: (g)

Amendment 12

On page 4, between lines 27 and 28, insert: (h) Within 10 working days of receipt of a CalWORKs childcare request form, a county shall approve the request for childcare, deny the request for childcare, or request outstanding information needed to approve or deny the request for childcare.

Amendment 13

On page 4, strike out line 33 and insert: On page 5, between lines 7 and 8, insert: (k) For purposes of this section, “written notice” includes a CalWORKs childcare request form.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations (Sponsor)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto

Opposition

None on file.

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