
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anna Caballero, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 607 (Celeste Rodriguez) - CalWORKs: Home Visiting Program

Version: February 13, 2025

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 18, 2025

Policy Vote: HUMAN S. 5 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Agnes Lee

Bill Summary: AB 607 would make changes to the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program.

Fiscal Impact: The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) indicates the following:

- Since the program is not an entitlement, there would be no additional costs to fund the program. The Budget Act of 2025 includes \$75.4 million in 2025-26 for the program, which reflects a \$25 million reduction that was imposed as part of the Budget Act of 2024 to help address the state's budget shortfall.

However if the eligible population is expanded without providing additional funding, families that were previously eligible could be at risk of not being served in the program to allow room for the new population. As counties continue to more fully utilize the flexibilities that this bill would provide, the bill may create an ongoing General Fund cost pressure in future years to fully fund the program in the amount of \$55.8 million.

- No fiscal impact to state operations.

Background: Current law establishes the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program as a voluntary program for the purpose of supporting positive health, development, and well-being outcomes for pregnant and parenting people, families, and infants born into poverty, expanding their future educational, economic, and financial capability opportunities, and improving the likelihood that they will exit poverty. The program provides high-quality, evidence-based, culturally competent services to pregnant people, parents or caretaker relatives, and children for 24 months or until the child's second birthday, whichever is later, that meet the needs of at-risk assistance units, including those in underserved, rural, tribal, impoverished, and other communities.

Current law requires CDSS, subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act, to award funds to participating counties for the purposes of the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program. Services authorized are not entitlement services and participating counties may limit the number of families participating in the program to ensure that the costs do not exceed the amount of funds awarded to the county.

A voluntary participant must meet both of the following criteria:

- The individual is one of the following: a member of a CalWORKs assistance unit; the parent or caretaker relative for a child-only case; an individual who is apparently eligible for CalWORKs aid.
- The individual is pregnant or the individual is a parent or caretaker relative of a child less than 24 months of age at the time the individual enrolls in the program; a county may serve additional individuals, as specified.

Proposed Law: Specific provisions of the bill would:

- Revise the duration of the program to be at least 24 months, and not to exceed the duration of the applicable home visiting program model.
- Revise eligibility criteria to include an individual who is a parent or caretaker relative of a child less than 36, rather than 24, months of age at the time the individual enrolls in the program.
- Provide that a voluntary participant whose participation would otherwise be terminated because the participant no longer meets CalWORKs income, eligibility, or need criteria may continue through the duration of the home visiting program or for up to an additional 12 months, whichever is longer.

Related Legislation: AB 1396 (Alvarado-Gil, 2024) was similar to this bill. The bill was held on the suspense file in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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