
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 778
Author: Limón (D)
Amended: 9/2/25 in Assembly
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/7/25
AYES: Arreguín, Ochoa Bogh, Becker, Limón, Pérez

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 5-0, 5/23/25
AYES: Caballero, Cabaldon, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab
NO VOTE RECORDED: Seyarto, Dahle

SENATE FLOOR: 34-1, 6/3/25
AYES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener
NOES: Choi
NO VOTE RECORDED: Hurtado, Jones, Niello, Reyes, Seyarto

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0, 9/8/25 - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Migrant childcare and development programs

SOURCE: Mexican American Opportunity Foundation

DIGEST: This bill expands eligibility for the migrant childcare and development programs to include a family with one individual who has earned at least 40 percent of their total gross income from employment in fishing, agriculture or agriculturally related work.

Assembly Amendments Clarify that for the purpose of enrollment in migrant child care and development programs, the CDSS shall ensure that the self certification of income shall be consistent with other child care and development programs.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) The Department of Social Services (DSS) shall administer all migrant child care and development programs. In addition, DSS shall support and encourage the state-level coordination of all agencies that offer services to migrant children and their families and state-level coordination of existing health funds for migrants. (Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 10235)
- 2) Defines “migrant agricultural worker family” as a family that has earned at least 50 percent of its total gross income from employment in fishing, agriculture, or agriculturally related work during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of application for childcare and development services. (WIC 10236)
- 3) Provides that children of migrant agricultural worker families shall be enrolled in child development programs on the basis of the following priorities:
 - a. The family moves from place to place.
 - b. The family has qualified within the past five years and is currently dependent for its income on agricultural employment, but is currently settled near agricultural areas.
 - c. The family resides in a rural agricultural area and is dependent upon seasonal agricultural work.
 - d. Eligibility and priority for services for the federally funded Migrant Child Development Program shall be in accordance with the applicable federal regulations. (WIC 10236)
- 4) DSS shall develop appropriate migrant child care and development programs, quality indicators, and the following:
 - a. Social services.
 - i. Bilingual liaison between migrant parents and the center or family child care home, or both.
 - ii. Liaison between the agency and the relevant community agencies and organizations, including health and social services.
 - iii. Identification and documentation of family needs and followup referrals as appropriate.
 - b. Staffing.
 - i. Bilingual health personnel shall be available to each program site of a migrant child care and development agency.
 - ii. Professional and nonprofessional staff shall reflect the linguistic and cultural background of the children being served.

- iii. Whenever possible, migrants will be recruited, trained, and hired in child care and development programs. Documentation of training and career ladder opportunities and of recruitment and hiring efforts shall be provided to the department. Staff training shall include principles and practices of child care and development for the age groups of children being served.
 - c. Health services in migrant child care and development programs shall include health and dental screening and followup treatment. Health records for all migrant children shall follow the child. (WIC 10237)
- 5) Provides that cost for migrant programs may exceed the standard reimbursement rate established by the department. In no case shall the reimbursement exceed the cost of the program. State-funded programs may be eligible for Chapter I federal funds to supplement state funding. These funds shall not be contingent upon the provision of additional child days or enrollment. (WIC 10238)
- 6) Provides that DSS shall annually reimburse seasonal migrant child care and development agencies for approvable startup and closedown costs. Reimbursement for both startup and closedown costs shall not exceed 15 percent of each agency's total contract amount. (WIC 10238)
- 7) Provides that seasonal migrant child care and development agencies shall submit reimbursement claims for startup costs with their first monthly reports, and reimbursement claims for closedown costs with their final reports. (WIC 10238)
- 8) Defines "Self-Certification of Income" as a declaration signed by the parent under penalty of perjury identifying:
- a. To the extent known, the employer's name, address, start date of work, the rate and frequency of pay, the total amount of income received for the preceding month(s), the type of work performed, and the hours and days worked; or
 - b. That the parent does not have income from employment and any source of income used to support the family including non-wage income. (5 CCR 18078)

This bill:

- 1) Changes the definition of "migrant agricultural worker family" to mean a family with at least one individual who has earned at least 40 percent of their

total gross income from employment in fishing, agriculture, or agriculturally related work during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of application for childcare and development services.

- 2) Provides that for the purpose of enrollment in migrant child care and development programs, the CDSS shall ensure that the self certification of income shall be consistent with other child care and development programs.

According to the author. “With over one-third of farmworkers in our country residing in California, ensuring access to essential resources and supportive services for agricultural working families is crucial for the state's well-being. In addition, childcare challenges continue to grow in the state, becoming a key factor for lost wages of working agricultural parents. SB 778 seeks to address childcare needs by expanding access to the Migrant Childcare and Development Programs (CMIG), providing greater support for families in the agricultural sector.”

Migrant Child Care Programs. California’s subsidized childcare system is designed to provide assistance for income eligible parents and guardians who are working, in training, seeking employment, incapacitated, or in need of respite through a number of programs, including direct contract programs and voucher-based programs. Direct contract programs operate at child care centers and family child care home education networks. Child care centers are usually located in a commercial building and provide nonmedical care and supervision for children. Family child care home education networks are administered by a contractor, such as a local educational agency, which provides professional development for groups of family child care home providers. Voucher-based programs provide vouchers for families to use at child care centers, family child care homes, or license-exempt child care. Families have a choice in the type of care their children receive.

Migrant child care and development programs (CMIG) operate at child care centers and family child care home education networks to provide child development services for children from birth through 12 years of age, and for youth with exceptional needs under 21 years of age. These programs provide an educational component that is culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate for the children served. These programs also provide meals and snacks to children and referrals to health and social service for agricultural families.

Migrant alternative payment programs (CMAP) issue vouchers to eligible migrant families that can be used to purchase child care services with providers throughout California’s central valley. The voucher follows families as they move from place to place for agricultural work.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1047 (Limon, Chapter 923, Statutes of 2022) expands, from 12 months to 24 months, the period of a family's eligibility after establishing initial eligibility for state preschool and subsidized child care and development programs, and expands priority for eligibility, enrollment, and services to include families who receive specified human services benefits.

AB 131 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 116, Statutes of 2021) required, a budget trailer bill, among other changes, childcare providers to be reimbursed based upon the maximum certified hours of need, as documented on the certificate or voucher, until June 30, 2022. The bill also raised reimbursement rates to the 85th percentile of the 2018 Regional Market Rate survey and established the Joint Labor Management Committee and Rate and Quality Stakeholder Workgroup.

SB 393 (Hurtado, Chapter 499, Statutes of 2021) aligned the funding structure for the migrant childcare alternative payment program (voucher) with other voucher programs by shifting the reimbursement rate for migrant childcare alternative payment programs from the Standard Reimbursement Rate to the Regional Market Rate. The bill also expanded reimbursement allowances to include additional costs.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis:

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) indicates that decreasing the qualifying income threshold to 40% pursuant to this bill will make additional families eligible for the California Migrant Childcare and Development Program (CMIG) and the California Migrant Alternative Payment Program (CMAP), but the department lacks sufficient data to gauge the exact fiscal impact of this change. However, based on current program characteristics, CDSS estimates the following ongoing General Fund costs:

- 1) For every 100 newly eligible children enrolled in CMIG, costs will be approximately \$2.1 million annually, at an estimated cost of \$20,124 for each new enrollment.
- 2) For every 100 newly eligible children enrolled in CMAP, costs will be approximately \$1.4 million annually, at an estimated cost of \$13,254 for each new enrollment.

SUPPORT: (Verified 9/8/25)

Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (Source)

California Citrus Mutual

California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association

California Strawberry Commission

California Walnut Commission

Everychild California

First 5 California

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara / California Department of Insurance

Western Tree Nut Association

OPPOSITION: (Verified 9/8/25)

None received

Assembly Floor, 78-0, 9/8/25

Ayes: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

No Vote Recorded: Nguyen, Sanchez

Prepared by: Heather Hopkins / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524

9/8/25 19:53:01

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