

Self–Help & Public Benefits: Crossover Issues

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PUBLIC BENEFITS OVERVIEW CHART

	TANF CalWORKs (Title IV A.)	Social Security (Title II)	Supplemental Security Income (Title XVI)	General Assistance or General Relief	Food Stamps	Medicare (Title XVIII)	Medicaid Medi-Cal (Title XIX)
Categorical Eligibility	Child w/o parental support or care Living with caretaker relative Deprived = - death - absence - unemployment - incapacity	Aged/Blind/Disabled & their dependent children; Aged/Blind/Disabled widows, widowers, divorced spouses of insureds	Aged/Blind/Disabled DAA cannot be contributing factor material to disability	Single Adults Some families	Household = people who buy and prepare food together	- 65 years old and eligible for SSA or RR retirement (through spouse or self); - Disabled and have received Title II disability benefits for 24 months - 50+ and disabled widow/widower receiving SSA through spouse for 2 years - End-stage kidney disease	-Linked to: CalWORKs, AFDC (7/6/96) SSI SSA (disability) - Pregnant women children -CalWORKs/SSI eligible (but not receiving); -Categorically eligible but not financially eligible for CalWORKs or SSI
Financial Eligibility	Inc.<Need Std. Resources: \$2K; 3K if 60+ or disabled Vehicle: \$4,650 Exempt: Home, belongings	No (Retirement benefits can be reduced if have earnings and not reached full retirement age.)	Income <Benefit Amt. Resources: \$2K; 3K; Exempt: home, belongings, 1 vehicle for transportation	Set by County Very little income (\$50 or less); very few resources	Inc.<130% FPL Resources: \$2K; 3K if 60+ or disabled Exempt: Home, belongings; vehicles	No; low income and resources = state pay for premiums under QMB or SLIB programs	Income varies by family size Resources: \$2K (1); \$3K (2); goes up by # in family Some programs have no resource limits
Conduct Eligibility	Welfare to Work; Assign Support; SSN #; Immunization, School Attendance	No	US Residence; Drug Rehabilitation	Work; Workfare, Work training, Alcohol & drug testing; treatment programs	Workfare, work; ABAWDs limited to 3 mo. per year unless working	No	Assign support rights
Procedural Eligibility	Verify; Interview Quarterly Report	No	Verify; Interview Monthly Report; Yearly Report	Verify, Monthly Report	Interview; Quarterly Report Certification	No	Verify; Interview; Quarterly Report; Certification
Agency	HHS/ACF; DSS; CWD	SSA; SSA FO/DO	SSA; SSA FO/DO	CWD	USDA/FNS; DSS; CWD	HHS; CMS; SSA D.O.	HHS, CMS, DHCS, CWD
Sources of Law	42 USC §602 45 CFR §201 W&I §10000-11000 MPP 19-22, 40 All County Letters	42 USC §402 20 CFR §404 POMS	42 USC §1382 20 CFR §416.110 POMS	W&I §17000 County Regulations	7 USC §2011 7 CFR §270 W&I §10000-11000 MPP 19-22, 63 All County Letters	42 USC §1395 20 CFR §404 42 CFR Parts 400-426	42 USC §1396; 42 CFR §431; W&I §14000 CCR 5000; 42 USC §602 45 CFR §201 W&I §10000-11000 MPP 19-22, 40

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SOLVING PROBLEMS

- Most proof of eligibility can be done later, to avoid delays in issuing the emergency benefits. Certain proof is required:
 - √ *Eviction notice* for back-rent help
 - √ *Pregnancy verification* for immediate need, if no other children in house
 - √ *Proof of immigration status* for immediate need
- If denied emergency benefits, ask to speak to the worker's supervisor. If that doesn't work and you still need help, ask for an *expedited* hearing.

Call the state hearing office, 800-952-5253, and tell them you need an expedited hearing.

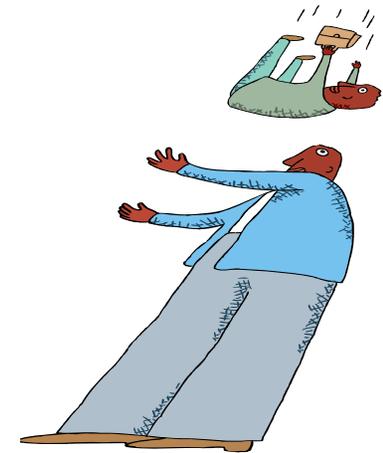
- If you can, bring as much paperwork as you can, to avoid another trip to the office and for faster processing of your regular benefits.
 - √ Proof of age of children
 - √ Proof of residence
 - √ Your identification papers
 - √ Social Security Numbers
 - √ Proof of relation to the child
 - √ Proof of income and resources
 - √ If no other children, proof of pregnancy with expected due date
 - √ Proof of immigration status

Public Assistance

Making it Work for You

Emergency Benefits

When You Can't Wait for Help....



Prepared by
Legal Services of Northern California
www.lsnrc.net

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Center on Law and Poverty

EMERGENCY AID

IMMEDIATE NEED

For CalWORKs applicants who can't pay for basic needs (rent, utilities, etc.). If you qualify, you will:



- Get up to a **\$200** within **48 hours**.
- If you have an eviction notice, get your full CalWORKs check in **3 days**.
- Get your CalWORKs application done in 15 working days (instead of 45).
- **To qualify**, you must seem eligible for CalWORKs based on your application. *You also must not be able to pay for the emergency.*
 - √ Pregnant women with no other children must verify the pregnancy.
 - √ Non-U.S. citizens must prove their immigration status.

EMERGENCY FOOD STAMPS

- Get your Food Stamps in 3 days, *if not on SSI*, and:
 - √ your rent and utilities are more than your income or resources can cover, *or*
 - √ you have less than \$150 in income/\$100 in resources.



HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

Homeless families/pregnant women can get:

- **\$65/day for a motel** (\$15/per person, if more than 4 people, up to \$125/day) for up to **16 days** if you:
 - √ Have an eviction notice for not paying rent *or* are homeless. (Includes staying at shelters, in cars, on the street, or with someone an emergency basis.)

- √ Have less than \$100 in cash.
- √ Look for permanent housing if homeless.
- √ Have not gotten CalWORKs Homeless Assistance before.
 - * You can get help again if you are now homeless because of domestic violence, physical or mental illness, or your home was condemned or damaged by a fire/natural disaster.

• Back rent

You can get up to two months rent to prevent an eviction. *You must turn in a copy of the "pay rent or quit" notice.*

• Move-in Costs

Money for last month's rent, security, utility, & cleaning deposits.



- √ You must prove you found a place to rent (commercial landlords only).
- √ Your share of the rent must be below 80% of your household income.
- √ You turn in a written rental agreement.

If you qualify, the county must give you the motel money the same day, or find shelter for you. The County must pay the move-in money by the next day.

HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY

Payments for things lost or destroyed by an emergency. It must be a "sudden and unusual" situation beyond your control."



- You must have less than \$100 in resources.
- You can get help to:
 - √ Repair or replace clothing or household equipment (beds, clothing, stoves, etc.)

- √ Fix damages to the home
- √ Pay for interim shelter (home destroyed, made uninhabitable or inaccessible) *only if not* eligible for Homeless Assistance.

- The county can give you donations or used goods, instead of a cash.
- The maximum for all needs is \$600, but each need has its own payment cap.

EMERGENCY MEDI-CAL

- Medi-Cal covers emergency services



regardless of immigration status. An emergency medical condition is when you are pregnant, or your health would be at serious risk of if you didn't get immediate medical attention. Labor and delivery and kidney dialysis treatment are emergency conditions.

- Also, if you are **pregnant**, many health care providers can give you immediate pregnancy services under "Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women" program, even before you apply for Medi-Cal.
- If you are low-income, County health will cover all or part of your medical costs, including emergency care.
- You can get screening and treatment for Breast and Cervical cancers if you are low-income and:
 - √ over 40 (breast screening) *or*
 - √ over 25 (cervical screening)



California Benefits Chart 2009/2010

Food Stamps

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income (130 % FPL)	Gross Monthly Income (165% FPL)	Net Monthly Income (100 % FPL)	Maximum Allotment Level
1	\$1,127	\$1,430	\$ 867	\$ 200
2	1,517	1,925	1,167	367
3	1,907	2,420	1,467	526
4	2,297	2,915	1,767	668
5	2,687	3,410	2,067	793
6	3,077	3,905	2,367	952
7	3,467	4,400	2,667	1,052
8	3,857	4,895	2,967	1,202
Each Additional Member	+ 390	+ 495	+ 300	+150

Standard Deduction	1-3	\$ 144	Property Limits
	4	147	
	5	172	
	6+	197	
Dependent Care Deduction per Dependent	Actual Cost		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2K; 3K if household member over age 60 or disabled
Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)	\$ 287		
Shelter Deduction Maximum	\$ 459		
Homeless Shelter Estimate	\$ 143		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All vehicles exempt
Telephone Utility Allowance (TUA)	\$ 20		
Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)	\$ 88		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home does not count

ACIN 1-61-08 eff. 10/1/08-9/30/09; **ACL 09-12 (February 27, 2009)** eff. 4/1/09-9/30/09; **ACIN I-61-09 (August 31, 2009)** eff. 10/1/09-9/30/10

Benchmark Institute www.BenchmarkInstitute.org

SSI/SSP (November 1, 2009-December 31, 2010)

Payment Standards	Property Limits
Independent Living Arrangement	
Individual*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2K for Individuals \$3K for Couples 1 vehicle exempt if used for transportation. Home does not count Quarters of Coverage: 2009 \$1090 2010 \$1190 SGA: 2009 more than \$980/1640 2010 more than \$1000/1640
Aged/Disabled \$ 845	
Blind 908	
Disabled Minor 737.40 (if residing in home of relative)	
FBR 2009: \$674 2009: \$674	
Couple*	
Both Aged/Disabled \$1397.20	
Both Blind 1554.20	
Blind/Aged/Disabled 1498.20 (one spouse blind & other aged or disabled)	
FBR 2009: \$1,011 2010: \$1,011	

* CAPI: Deduct \$10 for individuals, \$20 for couples

Latest federal COLA information: <http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/>
 SSI in California 2009 May 1- December 31 **ACWDL 09-18 (April 23, 2009)**;
 2009 July 1 – December 31 **ACIN I-26-09 (April 2, 2009)**; **ACIN I-86-09 (December 3, 2009)**

TIME LINES

Request for Hearing

CalWORKs	90 days (APP before date the action is effective)
Food Stamps	90 days (APP before date the action is effective)
Medi-Cal	90 days (APP before date the action is effective)
Child Care	14 days (Stage I Child Care – 90 days)
Unemployment & SDI	20 days
Social Security & SSI	60 days
General Assistance	20 days (Los Angeles County) 10 days (Sacramento County) 7 days (Alameda County) _____ (your county)

DSS Office of Hearings & Appeals, 744 P St. M.S. 19-36, Sacramento, CA 95814
 Hearing Request Line (800) 952-5253; TDD (800) 952-8349

California Benefits Chart CalWORKs 2009/2010

Per [ACL 08-27 \(5/28/08\)](#) [ACIN 1-77-08 \(10/2/08\)](#) Effective 7/1/09-6/30/10¹

Region 1 includes these counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Orange, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Ventura.

Region 2 includes all other counties.

Region 1

Region 2

AU Size	Maximum Aid Payment Non-Exempt (MAP)	Maximum Aid Payment Exempt (MAP)	Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC)	AU Size	Maximum Aid Payment Non-Exempt (MAP)	Maximum Aid Payment Exempt (MAP)	Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC)
1	\$ 359/345	\$ 398/382	\$ 532/540	1	\$ 340/326	\$ 378/363	\$ 504/512
2	584/561	653/627	872/885	2	555/533	623/598	828/841
3	723/694	808/776	1,080/1,097	3	689/661	771/740	975/1,042
4	862/828	961/923	1,282/1,302	4	821/788	916/879	1,220/1,239
5	980/941	1,094/1,050	1,464/1,486	5	934/897	1,045/1,003	1,392/1,413
6	1,101/1,057	1,229/1,180	1,645/1,670	6	1,049/1,007	1,172/1,125	1,565/1,589
7	1,210/1,162	1,350/1,296	1,807/1,835	7	1,150/1,104	1,288/1,236	1,717/1,743
8	1,318/1,265	1,473/1,414	1,969/1,999	8	1,255/1,205	1,403/1,347	1,873/1,902
9	1,424/1,367	1,591/1,527	2,135/2,168	9	1,356/1,302	1,518/1,457	2,025/2,056
10	1,530/1469	1,709/1,641	2,318/2,353	10	1,456/1,398	1,629/1,564	2,204/2,238
>10			Add \$20 for each extra person				Add \$20 for each extra person

Property Limits	Financial Eligibility Tests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2k; \$3k with family member over age 60 or disabled \$4,650 vehicle; vehicles >\$1,501 equity exempt Home does not count 	<p>Applicant: Gross income minus first \$90 of earned income must be below MBSAC</p> <p>Recipient: Net income minus disregards must be below MAP</p>

Benchmark Institute www.BenchmarkInstitute.org

¹[Welfare & Institutions Code § 11453](#) provides that MBSAC levels shall be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of living. This year's COLA increases the MBSAC and Income In-Kind levels by 1.53%. Use these new MBSAC levels are to determine applicant financial eligibility for CalWORKs families who apply on or after July 1, 2009. SB(X3)6 signed 2/20/09 reduces the MAP by 4% and suspends the MAP COLA for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

[ACL 09-20 \(April 8, 2009\)](#)

Medi-Cal/Healthy Families Income and Property Levels
 (April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010) [ACWDL 09-06 \(February 18, 2009\)](#)

Persons	Property Limit	Maintenance Need Level	1931(b) Recipient	100% FPL ¹	120% FPL ²	133% FPL ³	185% FPL ⁴	200% FPL ⁵	250% FPL ⁶	A&D FPL ⁷
1	2,000	600	398	903	1,083	1,201	1,670	1,805	2,257	1,133
2	3,000	750	653	1,215	1,457	1,615	2,247	2,429	3,036	1,525
2adults	3,000	934	653	1,215	1,457	1,615	2,247	2,429	3,036	1,525
3	3,150	934	808	1,526	1,760	2,030	2,823	3,052	3,815	N/A
4	3,300	1,100	961	1,838	2,205	2,444	3,400	3,657	4,594	N/A
5	3,450	1,259	1,094	2,150	2,579	2,859	3,976	4,299	5,373	N/A
6	3,600	1,417	1,229	2,461	2,953	3,273	4,553	4,922	6,153	N/A

Adapted from SHD Paraphrased Regulations – Aid Tables <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/shd/res/pdf/mcincome.pdf>

¹1931b applicant level [ACWDL 09-06 \(February 18, 2009\)](#) , also percentage program for ages 6-18 [ACWDL 09-06 \(February 18, 2009\)](#)

²Specialized Low Income Beneficiaries [ACWDL 09-06 \(February 18, 2009\)](#)

³Children Ages 1 through 5 [ACWDL 09-06 \(February 18, 2009\)](#)

⁴ Transitional Medi-Cal [ACWDL 09-06 \(February 18, 2009\)](#)

⁵ Pregnant women & child under 1, BCCTP & Family PACT) [ACWDL 09-06 \(February 18, 2009\)](#)

⁶ Healthy Families [ACWDL 09-06 \(February 18, 2009\)](#)

⁷ \$1579 effective 4/1/09; 100% of FPL plus \$230 for individuals, \$364 for couples. [ACWDL 09-08 \(February 24, 2009\)](#); \$1525 effective 5/1/09; 100% of FPL plus \$230 for individuals, \$310 for couples. [ACWDL 09-20 \(April 23, 2009\)](#)

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Not Getting Welfare? You Can Still Get Free Medi-Cal!

Don't lose Medi-Cal by mistake

- If you leave CalWORKs, protect your Medi-Cal. Turn in your CalWORKs CA-7 form and say you still want health care.
- If you already lost free Medi-Cal when you left CalWORKs, ask for a hearing. Call 1-800-952-5253 **right away**. At the hearing, ask Medi-Cal to pay any medical bills since you lost Medi-Cal.
- **If you think you make too much money, apply for Medi-Cal anyway.** Some income does not count. That is especially true if you work or pay for child care.
- Turn in your Medi-Cal Annual Redetermination form when you get it. Turn in the Mid-Year Status Report., too, if you're a parent and have to file it. If you don't, the county will end your Medi-Cal. Be sure the county has the right address for you so you get these forms!

You don't need a welfare check to get Medi-Cal!

Even if you do not get cash welfare, you can still get:

- Free Medi-Cal through 1931(b)
- Free Medi-Cal through Transitional Medi-Cal (sometimes called "TMC")
- Share of Cost Medi-Cal (sometimes called "Medically Needy" Medi-Cal)
- Special free or low-cost health care for children and pregnant women.



Who gets free 1931(b) Medi-Cal?

Starting in March 2000, families get 1931(b) Medi-Cal if they have:

- **Income below 100% of the federal poverty level.** That is \$1,306 a month for a family of 3 and \$1,571 for a family of 4. If your income is higher and your family got welfare recently, you may still be able to get 1931(b) Medi-Cal. That is because a lot of your income will not count.
- **Assets below \$3,000.** Some things you own do not count at all, like a home and clothes.

Try to get 1931(b) instead of TMC. 1931(b) is better, because it has no time limit.

Materials developed by:



The Health Consumer
ALLIANCE

Who gets free Transitional Medi-Cal (“TMC”)?

You get TMC Medi-Cal if:

- You lose CalWORKs or 1931(b) because you earn more money. You may get up to 12 months of free Medi-Cal.



If you can not get 1931(b) Medi-Cal, here is how to keep TMC Medi-Cal for up to 12 months:

If it is –	Then you get TMC Medi-Cal if you:
The first 6 months after losing CalWORKs or 1931(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were on CalWORKs or 1931(b) for at least 3 of the last 6 months (It does not matter how much money you make. You still get free Medi-Cal.)
The next 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work • Make less than 185% of the federal poverty level. That is \$2,416 a month for a family of 3 or \$2,907 a month for a family of 4.
<p>**Note: You must report your income to the welfare office every three months.</p>	

You can also get four months of continuing Medi-Cal if you lose CalWORKs or 1931(b) because your child support or alimony goes up. This is like TMC but only lasts 4 months.

How else do children and pregnant women get free or low-cost health care?

You get free Medi-Cal if:

You are:	And your family income is below:
Pregnant or under age 1	200% of poverty (\$2,612 a month for a family of 3, \$3,142 for 4)
Age 1 through 5	133% of poverty (\$1,737 a month for a family of 3, \$2,090 for 4)
Over age 5 and under age 19	100% of poverty (\$1,306 a month for a family of 3, \$1,571 for 4)

Children get low-cost Healthy Families if:

- They are under age 19; and
- Their family income is too high for Medi-Cal but under 250% of poverty. That is \$3,265 a month for a family of 3 and \$3,928 for a family of 4. Even if you make a little more money, you should apply. Some money does not count, especially if you work or have child care expenses.

Have any questions? Need help? Call:

Health Consumer Center of Los Angeles
 13327 Van Nuys Blvd. Pacoima, CA 91331
 1-800-896-3203
www.healthconsumer.org

Abuse Can Include:

- Hitting, threatening to hurt you or your children
- Mental abuse such as humiliating you, isolating you, not letting you see friends or family
- Not letting you see a doctor
- Controlling money and bank accounts
- Making the hitting or abuse seem unimportant or your fault
- Checking up on you, who you see, who you talk to

To talk to someone about abuse or to find a local Domestic Violence agency, call the **Crisis Line:**

1(800) 978-3600

In an emergency, call 911.

Immigrants Who Are Victims of Violence Have Special Rights

Immigrants who are victims of a violent crime, abuse, the sex trade, or were trafficked into the country may be able to get welfare and possibly a work permit. Contact Legal Services for help.



If the county will not help you, or will not give you a waiver of a rule, or cuts your aid you should ***ask for a hearing.***

To ask for a fair hearing:

By Mail Fill out the back of any Notice of Action (letter) & send it to:

Appeals & State Hearings

P.O. Box 18890

Los Angeles, CA 90018-0890; or

By Phone: Call 1-(800) 952-5253 (this number is often busy, so keep trying!)

By Fax to (916) 229-4110

Problems?

Call NLS For Free Legal Help

1(800) 433-6251

or

**Legal Aid Foundation of
Los Angeles (213) 640-3883**

CalWORKs



and Abuse Survivors



Abuse Survivors -You Have Special Rights in CalWORKs

Welfare Can Change Most Rules Such As:

- the 60 month time limit
- your helping with child support & paternity
- cash aid limits for mothers who have more children while on aid (“MFG” rule)
- requirements that teen parents live with an adult
- welfare to work rules
- possibly overpayments
- almost any other rule

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These Changes to the Rules are Called DV Waivers

To Get a Waiver:

Tell your worker (“self-declare”). You do not need to share all the details of the abuse. Fill out form PA1913. (ask your worker for help)

Once You are Ready to Start Welfare to Work (GAIN) (to go to work , school or other activities)...

GAIN (Welfare to work) can Change the Rules for You.

For example, most people have to do 32 hours a week of activities. If 32 hours is too much for you the County must let you do less than 32 hours.

GAIN Should Not Cut Your CalWORKs Cash Aid if You Make a Mistake

If you cannot do something in GAIN because of your abuse, GAIN should accept this as “good cause.” Welfare should not cut your cash aid.



You Can Get Help from Welfare (& GAIN) including:

- Counseling
- Legal help
- Job Training
- One-time cash payments to help you escape (Diversion)
- Money for gas or bus fare
- Safe transportation, including taxi fare when needed
- Money for child care
- A Waiver of Any Rule

You Can Get This Help Without Having to Do the Usual Welfare Activities

You and your DV counselor should decide when you are ready to begin Welfare to Work (GAIN or REP) activities. In the meantime, you can get DV counseling and other services.

Or you can do some work or educational activity as a volunteer. As a volunteer you cannot be sanctioned. Your 60-Month time clock can be stopped. And you can get transportation money, child care and similar work or education costs paid for.

Welfare can give you a Domestic Violence waiver of almost any rule that would hurt you or your family or be unfair to you !

**PROGRAM COMPARISONS
IN BRIEF**

FEDERAL FOSTER CARE	STATE FOSTER CARE
Juvenile Court jurisdiction	Juvenile Court jurisdiction OR Parental rights terminated OR Relinquished for adoption
State Agency responsible	Dependency OR probate guardianship
Child linked to AFDC in the petition month or prior six months; and currently eligible*	AFDC eligible* (No linkage requirement)
In an approved home (i.e. meets the State licensing standards)	Legal Guardianship with a non-relative
Ongoing review by court, state agency	No further review.

* "Current eligibility" means re age, residence, citizenship, etc.; it does not refer to placement with a relative, i.e. this is distinct from "linkage."

KINSHIP GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM ("Kin-GAP")	ADOPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP)
Juvenile Court jurisdiction and State agency responsibility.	Juvenile Court jurisdiction and State agency responsibility
12 months with a relative [unnecessary for a successor guardian]	Child unlikely to be adopted w/o financial assistance
LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP (by that relative)	ADOPTION
Termination of court jurisdiction	Termination of court jurisdiction
No further review or services [except ILP, on request at age 16]	No further review or services
Annual Reporting	Rate renegotiated every 2 years
California only	Anywhere in the U.S.

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DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CalWORKs & Federal FOSTER CARE BENEFITS

CalWORKs			Federal FOSTER CARE	
If needy, a related caretaker is also eligible for CalWORKs benefits			Only the child is eligible for foster care (FC) benefits; a needy relative caregiver can get CalWORKs for self	
Benefits amount based upon number of individuals in CalWORKs case			Benefits amount are individual, based on the age of each foster child	
<u>REGION 1 BENEFITS¹</u>			<u>BASIC RATES²</u>	
<u>NOT.ON AID</u>	<u>EXEMPT GRANT</u>	<u>NON-EXMPT GRANT</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>RATE*</u>
1	\$ 387	\$ 349	0-4	\$ 425
2	\$ 636	\$ 568	5-8	462
3	\$ 786	\$ 704	9-11	500
4	\$ 935	\$ 839	12-14	546
5	\$1065	\$ 954	15 and Older	597
6	\$1196	\$1072	* Note: In many counties, children are eligible to receive a specialized care rate, if severely physically or mentally disabled.	
All CalWORKs recipients are entitled to Medi-cal (HMO)			Only the foster child automatically entitled to Medi-cal (regular)	
Benefits are paid once per month, <u>before</u> care is provided			Benefits are paid once a month, <u>after</u> the care is provided	
Only children living with relative caretakers are eligible			Children placed with either related or non-related caretakers may be eligible	
CalWORKs recipients are eligible for food stamps			Option to include or exclude FC children – income counts if in FS HH	
Flat grant based on family size, with minor and limited exceptions (max. Of \$10-15/mo.)			Higher specialized needs rates available in many counties (can more than double the basic rate)	
No clothing allowances			Placement and back-to-school clothing allowances available in most counties	

¹ Children living with non-needy or disabled caregivers get the exempt grant.

² Current basic rates for Los Angeles County. The basic rates also apply to Kin-GAP.

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Useful Web Sites--- Public Benefits

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All resources are free, unless noted otherwise.

For information and brochures on public benefits, go to Legal Services of Northern California's website & click on the "public benefits" link.

<http://www.lsnr.net/>

For information on health programs for the poor, working poor, children and immigrants (regardless of status) go to Health Consumer Alliance's website at:

<http://healthconsumer.org>

For consumer brochures click on the "publications" link.

For a more detailed guide to the Medi-Cal program go to:

<http://healthconsumer.org/publications.htm#medi-caloverview> –

For information on the CMSP rules go to:

<http://www.cmsspcounties.org/> - follow link – Free

For Training Resources and General Information on a variety of programs see Benchmark Institutes website. <http://benchmarkinstitute.org/>

Click on the "learning portal link" and the area you are interested in (e.g. public benefits).

http://benchmarkinstitute.org/t_by_t/pb/info/index.htm

For information on the CalWORKs and Foster Care programs, visit Western Center on Law & Poverty's website at: <http://www.wclp.org>

Click on the "resources" link to find their publications.

The Western Centers Guide to CalWORKs is an excellent resource, which is available on line (for a fee) at:

<http://www.wclp.org/Resources/WCLPManualPublications/tabid/1047/Default.aspx>

WCLP also has a foster care manual available free at that same site.

Useful Web Sites--- Public Benefits

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For information on Unemployment and State Disability Insurance, go to the state EDD website where lots of good information is available.

<http://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/>

For information on the food stamp program (now called SNAP) and to see if a person might qualify visit:

<http://www.snap-step1.usda.gov/fns/>

For information on advocacy & California's food stamp program (and other nutrition programs) visit California Food Policy Advocates at:

<http://www.cfpa.net/>

For an advocates guide to the program with detailed information, use the Food Stamp Guide

www.foodstampguide.org

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Self-Help & Public Benefits: Crossover Issues

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