
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill No: SB 1083
Author: Skinner (D)
Amended: 8/25/22
Vote: 21

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5-0, 4/5/22

AYES: Hurtado, Jones, Cortese, Kamlager, Pan

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 5/19/22

AYES: Portantino, Bates, Bradford, Jones, Kamlager, Laird, Wieckowski

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0, 5/25/22

AYES: Allen, Archuleta, Atkins, Bates, Becker, Borgeas, Bradford, Caballero, Cortese, Dahle, Dodd, Durazo, Eggman, Glazer, Gonzalez, Grove, Hueso, Hurtado, Jones, Kamlager, Laird, Leyva, Limón, McGuire, Melendez, Min, Newman, Nielsen, Ochoa Bogh, Pan, Portantino, Roth, Rubio, Skinner, Stern, Umberg, Wieckowski, Wiener, Wilk

NO VOTE RECORDED: Hertzberg

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: Not available

SUBJECT: CalWORKs: pregnancy and homeless assistance

SOURCE: Black Women for Wellness Action Project
Western Center on Law and Poverty

DIGEST: This bill makes various changes to the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program. This bill requires a county human services agency to refer a pregnant CalWORKs participant to perinatal home visiting services. This bill also makes changes specific to the CalWORKs homeless assistance (HA) program, including: expands the criteria to determine whether a family is considered homeless to include if the family has received any notice that could lead to an eviction; requires a county to provide a housing navigation caseworker who can assist with securing permanent housing if that

county chooses to require the family to participate in a homelessness avoidance case plan; and clarifies how a pregnant applicant may verify their pregnancy.

Assembly Amendments remove the increase to the maximum number of days a family experiencing homelessness may receive temporary CalWORKs HA; remove the extension of CalWORKs HA for families that include a pregnant person; delay the requirement for county human services agencies to refer pregnant CalWORKs participants to perinatal home visiting services to October 1, 2023; delay the requirement for a county to provide a housing navigation caseworker to a CalWORKs HA participant under specified circumstances to October 1, 2023; remove the requirement that a family receiving CalWORKs HA remain eligible following termination of CalWORKs aid due to exceeding income limits; delay expansion of eviction criteria for HA to 1, 2024, or on the date CDSS notifies the Legislature that the Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) can perform the necessary automation to implement this change; and include chaptering out language to incorporate amendments to Section 11450 of the Welfare and Institutions Code proposed by AB 2230 (Gipson) to resolve conflicts.

ANALYSIS: Existing federal law establishes the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which permits states to implement the program under a state plan. (*42 USC 601 et seq.*)

Existing state law:

- 1) Establishes the CalWORKs program to provide cash assistance and other social services for low-income families through the federal TANF program. Under CalWORKs, each county provides assistance through a combination of state, county, and federal TANF funds. (*WIC 11200 et seq.*)
- 2) Requires a county human services agency to refer all pregnant recipients of CalWORKs aid to a local provider of the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. (*WIC 11450(c)(1)*)
- 3) Makes available an allowance for nonrecurring special needs for a homeless family seeking shelter when the family is eligible for CalWORKs aid. (*WIC 11450(f)(3)(A)*)
- 4) Defines a family to be considered homeless, for the purpose of eligibility for CalWORKs HA, when the family lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence, among other criteria. Additionally defines a family to be considered homeless if the family has received a notice to pay rent or quit. (*WIC 11450(f)(3)(B)*)

- 5) Establishes that a family is eligible for HA if homelessness is a direct result of violence by a spouse, partner, or roommate; physical or mental illness, as specified; or the uninhabitability of the former residence caused by sudden and unusual circumstances beyond the control of the family, including natural catastrophe, fire, or condemnation. *(WIC 11450(f)(4)(E)(iii))*.
- 6) Makes a nonrecurring special needs benefit of \$85 per day to families with up to four members for the costs of temporary shelter, and \$15 per day for each additional family member, up to \$145. Allows county human services agencies to increase the daily amount available for temporary shelter as necessary to secure the additional bed space needed by the family. *(WIC 11450(f)(4)(A)(i))*
- 7) Limits eligibility for CalWORKs HA to 16 calendar days of temporary assistance and one payment of permanent assistance every 12 months, with certain exceptions, and requires that a person who applies for these benefits be informed of this time limit. Allows for exceptions to these limits in the case of domestic violence, illness, natural catastrophe, and state or federally declared disaster. *(WIC 11450(f)(4)(E)(i))*
- 8) Allows a county to require that a recipient of HA who qualifies for benefits for a second time in a 24-month period participate in a homelessness avoidance case plan as a condition of eligibility for HA benefits. *(WIC 11450(f)(4)(E)(iii))*
- 9) Provides, in the case of domestic abuse, for expanded HA benefits in the form of 32 days of temporary shelter assistance within the applicant's lifetime. Requires the second 16-day period of temporary shelter assistance to continue to be available when the applicant becomes a CalWORKs recipient during the first 16-day period. *(WIC 11450(f)(4)(I)(ii))*

This bill:

- 1) Eliminates the condition that CalWORKs aid be paid to a pregnant person who is 18 years of age or younger only when the Cal-Learn program is operative.
- 2) Requires a county human services agency to refer all recipients of CalWORKs aid who are pregnant to perinatal home visiting services administered by the county public health agency, county human services agency, or applicable county home visiting provider, commencing October 1, 2023.
- 3) Expands the criteria to determine whether a family is considered homeless for purposes of eligibility for CalWORKs HA to include if the family has received

any notice that could lead to an eviction, regardless of the circumstances cited in the eviction notice. Clarifies that a roommate includes, but is not limited to, a parent or child with whom a family is living, for purposes of establishing that a family is eligible for HA if homelessness is a direct result of domestic violence by a spouse, partner, or roommate. Makes these provisions operative July 1, 2024.

- 4) Clarifies that a pregnant person may verify their eligibility for CalWORKs HA by means of a sworn statement or, if necessary, a verbal attestation. Requires medical verification of pregnancy to be submitted within 30 working days following submission of the sworn statement or verbal attestation for benefits to continue. Requires the county human services agency to continue aid when the applicant presents evidence of good faith efforts to comply with this requirement. This conforms to existing requirements for verifying pregnancy for purposes of general CalWORKs aid.
- 5) Requires a county to provide a housing navigation caseworker to assist with securing permanent housing and housing case management services if that county chooses to require a recipient of CalWORKs HA to participate in a homeless avoidance case plan as a condition of eligibility.
- 6) Makes other technical changes.

Background

CalWORKs Homeless Assistance (HA). CalWORKs, the state's version of the federal TANF program, provides temporary cash assistance aimed at moving children out of poverty and helping low-income families meet their basic needs, such as rent, clothing, utility bills, food, and other items needed to ensure children are cared for at home.

The CalWORKs HA program was established to help families in the CalWORKs program secure or maintain permanent housing or to provide emergency shelter when a family is experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The program is an entitlement benefit available in all 58 counties, and includes temporary and permanent assistance. Temporary assistance provides a daily payment for families to secure housing for up to 16 days in a 12-month period. Permanent assistance can be provided via security deposit costs or up to two months of rent arrearages. In 2020-21, the program approved temporary assistance for 30,863 families and permanent assistance for 1,683 families. According to the Department of Social Services (CDSS), the HA caseload averages from 2016-17 through 2020-21

showed an average of approximately 48,352 approvals for temporary HA, and 4,898 approvals for permanent HA per year.

Eligible families may receive CalWORKs HA benefits once every 12 months, with certain exceptions due to domestic abuse, illness, uninhabitability of the home, or declared disaster. When a family receives CalWORKs HA based on a state or federally declared disaster, it does not count against their once-over-12-months limit, but is limited to once per disaster. In addition, a CalWORKs HA applicant who is a survivor of domestic abuse is eligible for expanded assistance of 32 days of temporary HA, rather than the general limit of 16 days of temporary HA.

Comments

Purpose of this bill. According to the author, “among California’s large unhoused population, there is an alarming and rising number of families with children. While state funding to expand permanent housing for our unhoused has greatly increased, the transition to a new permanent home can take many months. By expanding the type of documents accepted for eviction and requiring a county to provide a caseworker, SB 1083 will help children stay in school, help parents maintain employment and prevent unhoused families from falling through the cracks.”

Related/Prior Legislation

AB 2230 (Gipson, 2022) requires families receiving temporary shelter assistance through the CalWORKs HA program to receive 16 days of temporary shelter assistance in the form of a one-time payment, instead of receiving 16 days of temporary shelter assistance in the form of an initial payment of three days that can be extended in one-week increments. AB 2230 is currently on the Senate Floor.

SB 1065 (Hertzberg, Chapter 152, Statutes of 2020) made various changes to CalWORKs HA, including removing liquid resource limits, simplifying verification of homelessness, and expanding eligibility as a result of a state or federally declared disaster, among other changes.

SB 960 (Maienschein, Chapter 444, Statutes of 2019) expanded the type of housing for which a CalWORKs HA payment can be made to include a person with whom, or an establishment with which, the family requesting assistance has executed a valid lease, sublease, or shared housing agreement.

AB 1811 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 35, Statutes of 2018) increased, as of January 1, 2019, the daily rate for CalWORKs temporary homeless assistance from \$65 a day to \$85 a day for a family with up to four members, and increased the

daily maximum from \$125 to \$145.

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

According to an analysis prepared by the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, the June 8, 2022 version of this bill would have the following fiscal impact:

- 1) Estimated ongoing General Fund (GF) costs of approximately \$300 million annually to accommodate the HA program expansions in this bill. These additional costs are not provided for in the state budget.

This estimate includes approximately \$100 million due to families remaining eligible for HA upon termination from CalWORKs, \$97 million for increased assistance for pregnant persons, \$76 million for expanding the maximum eligible days for temporary housing assistance from 16 to 40, \$16 million for domestic violence maximum day extensions, and \$12 million for expanding eligibility to families on the verge of homelessness.

- 2) Estimated one-time costs of \$1 million (GF) for automation changes to the California Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (CalSAWS).
- 3) Estimated costs to counties of an unknown, but likely significant, amount to accommodate administrative workload due to the HA program expansions and associated caseload increases.

Committee staff note that this bill has been significantly amended since this analysis, and likely presents a different fiscal impact.

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/25/22)

Black Women for Wellness Action Project (co-source)

Western Center on Law & Poverty (co-source)

Access Reproductive Justice

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, Mu Lambda Omega Chapter

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District IX

Breastfeedla

California Alliance of Child and Family Services

California Black Health Network

California Catholic Conference

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

California Nurse-Midwives Association

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence

California Preterm Birth Initiative
California Reinvestment Coalition
California WIC Association
Causes to Care About
Children Now
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
Consumer Watchdog
Courage California
Everychild Foundation
Fieldstead and Company, INC.
First 5 Alameda County
First 5 Association of California
Maternal and Child Health Access
Naral Pro-choice California
National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
Nurse - Family Partnership
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
San Diego Breastfeeding Coalition
South Asian Network
The Praxis Project

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/25/22)

None received

Prepared by: Elizabeth Schmitt / HUMAN S. / (916) 651-1524
8/30/22 18:39:12

**** **END** ****