



AB 1808 – Childcare and Development Services: Eligibility (Nguyen and Davies)

SUMMARY

For over 20 years, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) programs has played a crucial role in reducing poverty, promoting economic stability, and enhancing the quality of life for vulnerable families. A key facet of its success is child care support, where it provides child care assistance for parents participating in job training programs.

AB 1808 will align the eligibility period for child care support under the CalWORKs program with other subsidized programs, extending it from 12 to 24 months. This change aims to create consistent rules for families in need, regardless of whether they access support through welfare, community-based structures, or county offices.

BACKGROUND

Starting January 1, 2023, SB 1047 (Limon) amended Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 10271(h) implementing a 24-month eligibility period for various child care programs, including: General Child Care and Development Program, Family Child Care Education Home Network, Migrant Child Care and Development Program Migrant Alternative Payment Program Children with Severe Disabilities and Alternative Payment Program. However, it excludes families receiving child care and development services through CalWORKs Stages 1, 2, or 3.

Currently, CalWORKs Stage 1, administered by 38 counties through Alternative Payment Programs (APP), allows for 12-month eligibility with no

practical benefit. Inconsistencies in time limits across CalWORKs stages contribute to inequities and challenges for entering families.

The CalWORKs Stage 1 child care program provides funding to each of California's 58 county welfare departments. In California, 38 of California's 58 counties contract out with an APP to administer CalWORKs Stage 1 child care.

SOLUTION

AB 1808 establishes a consistent 24-month eligibility period for all income-eligible families within CalWORKs, aligning it with other subsidized child care programs. This bill will help to eliminate disparities, streamline processes, and reduce burdens on families accessing child care support. Reliable child care is vital for parents pursuing employment or education without worrying about the safety and well-being of their children.

SUPPORT

Thriving Families California (Sponsors)

OPPOSITION

None

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