

YOUNG CHILD EXEMPTION ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2012 NEW RULES FOR CalWORKs WELFARE-TO-WORK ACTIVITIES

Starting January 1, 2013, if you did not have to do CalWORKs activities because you were caring for a young child(ren) you will now have to do these activities. You do not have to participate in an activity until your county worker contacts you.

Your county worker will contact you after January 1, 2013, to help you start activities that will help you get a job. While you were exempt no time was counted against your CalWORKs 48-month time limit. Until your county worker has talked to you about participating in an activity(ies) and you have signed a Welfare-to-Work (WTW) plan that includes necessary supportive services, time will not be counted toward the CalWORKs 48-month time limit.

There may be other reasons (exemptions) you do not have to participate in WTW activities. These reasons may include your own disability or taking care of a sick household member. Also, if you are taking care of a child 23 months or younger, you can choose to use a new one time exemption. **Contact your county worker if you think you qualify for another exemption.** If you qualify, you may be able to volunteer to participate in WTW activities.

There are new rules for WTW activities. Everyone will have more WTW activity options; most families have fewer hours of required participation. You are not required to participate *until* you are contacted by your county worker. Your county worker will contact you before December 31, 2014.

The new rules do not change your CalWORKs 48-month time limit or your cash aid amount, but the WTW rules to stay on aid have changed.

Summary of New WTW Rules

- Starting January 1, 2013, there is a new **WTW 24-Month Time Clock** (within the 48-month time limit).
- For most families, there are fewer required hours of participation.
- You will have more choices of activities you can participate in during the WTW 24-Month Time Clock period. At the end of the WTW 24-Month Time Clock period, you will have fewer choices of activities.
- There are times when your WTW 24-Month Time Clock may stop. Months when your clock is stopped will not count towards your WTW 24-Month Time Clock.
- Your WTW 24-Month Time Clock does not start until your county worker contacts you about your new activity and you have signed a WTW plan that includes necessary supportive services.

Hours of Participation

For most families, there are fewer required hours of participation:

Number of Adults in the Family (Assistance Unit)	Prior to January 1, 2013 Weekly Hours of Participation	Starting January 1, 2013 Weekly Hours of Participation
Single-adult with a child under 6 years old	32	20
Single-adult with no children under 6 years old	32	30
Two-parent families	35	35

More Choices in WTW Activities

- You will have more choices of activities you can participate in during the WTW 24-Month Time Clock period. These activities include: work, education, training, and mental health, substance abuse, and/or domestic abuse services. There are no more “core” activities.
- **There is still a 48-month time limit on CalWORKs, but the WTW rules to stay on aid have changed.** If you have less than 24 months left on your 48-month time limit, you will have more choices of activities for the rest of your time on aid.
- The county must help in paying for child care, transportation, and/or other related expenses (supportive services) if you **need** them to participate in any approved WTW appointment or activity.

Your WTW 24-Month Time Clock Stops When:

- You are in appraisal, job search, assessment, or in the process of developing a new WTW plan.
- You are meeting the required number of participation hours in certain activities. Your county worker will explain this more to you at your next contact.
- You are in Cal-Learn.
- You are exempt from participating.
- The county determines that you have a good reason for not participating (called good cause).
- You are sanctioned.

(This space is available for counties to insert county specific contact options.)

If I already have a WTW plan because I am volunteering, can I still use this plan?

- You may still use this plan while you are volunteering. You will have to sign a new WTW plan when your worker contacts you. You will have the option to change your plan activities but you may not need to. When your county worker contacts you he/she will discuss the new rules with you and give you a chance to change your plan at that time if you like.
- You may continue to volunteer until your county worker contacts you. You will continue to receive the same level of supportive services. As a reminder, you will receive supportive services only for activities in your approved plan.
- If you do not do your activities you have agreed to in your volunteer plan your supportive services may change.

What if my aid was cut (because of a sanction) before I became exempt?

- If your aid was lowered for not participating (called a 'sanction'), your sanction ended when you became exempt.

What if I do not do what my county worker asks me to do?

- If you do not do what your county worker asks you to do, such as attend an appointment, you may be sanctioned. If you are sanctioned, your cash aid will be lowered and it may affect your supportive services.

What happens when my WTW 24-Month Time Clock runs out?

- When your WTW 24-Month Time Clock runs out, you will have a shorter list of activities to choose to participate in to continue receiving the same amount of cash aid.
 - The shorter list may include employment, work experience, and community service.
 - Vocational education and training may also be allowed for up to one year after your WTW 24-Month Time Clock ends.
- Your county worker will explain more about this shorter list of activities to you before your WTW 24-Month Time Clock runs out.
- Your county will send you a notice before you reach the end of your WTW 24-Month Time Clock. They will provide you with the shorter list of activities to choose from, and instructions on what you will need to do next in order to continue receiving the same level of cash aid.
- **Once your WTW 24-Month Time Clock ends, if you do not meet your new participation requirements, your cash aid may be lowered and it may affect your supportive services.**
- There are reasons that can give you more time (an extension) on your WTW 24-Month Time Clock. Your county will send you more information about these reasons before your WTW 24-Month Time Clock runs out.