
Changes for People with a Prior Felony Drug Conviction:

As of April 1, 2015, the CalWORKs and CalFresh programs will allow people with felony drug convictions to get benefits. This means people who were denied or lost benefits because of a conviction may get more benefits. Parents will be automatically added to the CalWORKs Assistance Unit (AU). The County will let you know if it needs more information to process this person for benefits.

Stepparents that were optional and not already part of your AU may also be added but you will need to contact the County if you want benefits for a stepparent or registered domestic partner.

Just like all other people that get CalWORKs and CalFresh, people with felony drug convictions who are on parole or probation must follow the rules of their parole or probation, including approved drug treatment plans, if that is part of the person's parole or probation.

You will get a Notice of Action in March showing your new benefits amount starting April 1st.

CalFresh Changes:

Adding a person to the CalFresh household generally gives you more food benefits. If the person is also added to CalWORKs, and the cash aid goes up, the CalFresh benefits may go down. **You will get a separate notice if your CalFresh benefits change.**

Welfare-to-Work:

Adding an adult to CalWORKs may change the work requirements for the family. Aided adults must work or do activities that may lead to work. Some people may be excused (exempt) from the work requirement. People with prior felony drug convictions added to your AU starting April 1, 2015 may be required to do the Welfare-to-Work (WTW) program. People not required to do WTW may volunteer.

The WTW program can give you education, training, and job skills to help you find a job. The County will also help you arrange and pay for child care. You also get the transportation and other costs, such as special tools or clothing, you need to get a job or do your WTW program. If your family is in crisis, such as homelessness or family problems, CalWORKs also may be able to give you special services.

If you are required to do WTW, and do not do your required assignment, your cash aid may be lowered. The County will send you more information about the CalWORKs work requirements. It will also send you a form to request an exemption from WTW requirements.

Child Care:

Adults who get CalWORKs benefits may get child care services if they are working or doing an approved WTW activity. If your child is currently getting child care and you start getting CalWORKs, it is not necessary to change child care providers, especially if your provider will accept CalWORKs child care payments.

Contact the County to discuss the availability of child care options that you may be entitled to.

Child Support:

Adults that get CalWORKs must cooperate with child support collection for children on CalWORKs. The child support collected must be paid back to the county. That means that when your case is referred to child support services you will only get a maximum of \$50 per month in child support. This \$50 will not count against your grant. The rest of your child support is used to re-pay your cash aid.

Contact the County if you have questions about the changes in your child support or if your family will be at risk if child support is collected.
