WORK REALLY PAYS! HERE'S HOW:

You can work and still get CalWORKs cash aid as long as you are low income and remain eligible. When you add your earnings to your cash aid, you will have more \$\$\$ for your family. Work also:

- Develops your job skills, and helps you get a better job.
- Builds a better life for you and your family.
- Gives you personal satisfaction.
- Builds your self-esteem.



FIGURE YOUR EARNINGS AND CASH AID:

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW WORK PAYS FOR MARY AND HER TWO CHILDREN (REGION 1): Mary works 32 hours a week for \$8.00 an hour.

Step 1 Figure your weekly gross earnings: Step 1 We figure Mary's weekly gross earnings: Your hourly wage \$_____x your weekly \$8.00 x 32 hours = \$256 Weekly Earnings hours of work = your Weekly Gross Earnings \$ Step 2 We figure Mary's monthly gross earnings: Step 2 Figure your monthly gross earnings: \$256 x 4.33 weeks = \$1108.48 Monthly Your Weekly Gross Earnings \$_ Gross Earnings (4.33 is the average number 4.33 weeks = your Monthly Gross of weeks per month) Earnings \$__ Figure your monthly countable earnings: Step 3 Step 3 We figure Mary's monthly countable earnings: Mary's Monthly Gross Earnings \$ 1108.48 Your Monthly Gross Earnings Less \$225 Earned Income (from Step 2) \$ Deduction (EID) 225.00 Less \$225 Deduction 225.00 Balance 883.48 Balance \$ Less 50% (half) of Balance 441.74 Less 50% (half) of Balance Equals Countable Earnings 441.00* **Equals Countable Earnings** Step 4 We figure Mary's cash grant: Step 4 Figure your cash grant: Non-exempt Maximum Aid Non-exempt Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) for 3 (Region 1) 638.00 Payment (MAP) for a family your Less Mary's Countable Earnings 441.00 size **Equals Cash Grant** 197.00 Less your Countable Earnings (from step 3) Equals Cash Grant Step 5 We figure Mary's total monthly income: Step 5 Figure your total monthly income: Monthly Gross Earnings \$ 1108.00* Monthly Gross Earnings Plus Cash Grant 197.00 (from step 2) Equals Total Gross Income 1305.00 Plus Cash Grant (from step 4) Equals Total Gross Income *Countable income is rounded down to whole dollar amounts.

Si no puede leer este documento, pídale ayuda a su trabajador.

若需本通知的翻譯本,請和你的工作員聯絡。

Для перевода этого извещения обратитесь к работнику.

Để có bản dịch của thông báo nảy, xin liên lạc với nhân viên phụ trách hồ sơ của quý vị.

For a translation of this notice, ask your worker.

WORK PAYS IN SO MANY OTHER WAYS

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

While in CalWORKs, you and the county will agree on goals and activities to help you get a job and support your family without cash aid. You have the right to available supportive services you need to do the activities and assignments. This can be transportation, child care, ancillary costs (fees, uniforms, supplies, etc.), and counseling services to help with the transition to work. You may be able to get some of these supportive services paid for in advance.

CHILD CARE

CalWORKs can pay for part of all or your child care. You can get paid child care while you look for a job, work, or take part in other approved CalWORKs activities, such as training or county meetings. Your child care will be paid to the eligible child care provider that you choose.

If you are looking for work, working, in a training program, or taking part in a county approved activity, you can get paid child care for the entire time you are on cash aid. After you go off cash aid, you can keep getting child care for up to 24 months, as long as you are below a certain income level.

After you have received 24 months of child care, you may continue to get child care if funding is available and your family remains eligible. The county or the local Alternative Payment Program agency will help you to find additional services.

JOB RETENTION SERVICES

Some counties provide job retention services for eligible former recipients, as part of the CalWORKs program. Job retention services can be case management, transportation, or other services that help you keep a job or get a better job. Ask your worker what services your county can give you. Months you get job retention services do not count against the California 48-month time limit, and do not count against the Federal limit as long as you are employed.

You may get job retention services for up to 12 months IF:

- You got CalWORKs AND
- You went off cash aid because you got a job <u>OR</u>
- You went off cash aid and you got a job within 12 months.

HEALTH COVERAGE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Your health coverage may continue when your CalWORKs cash aid stops.

 Depending on the reason your cash aid stops, you and your child(ren) may be eligible for continued no-cost or low-cost health coverage under the Medi-Cal or Healthy Families programs.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

The federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a special tax break for people who work full or part time. This means extra cash in your pocket. Claiming your EITC is easy. Just file your tax return form 1040 or 1040A and Schedule EIC. You can still get an EITC refund even if you do not owe any income tax.

The EITC refund is not counted as income when your CalWORKs cash grant, CalFresh, or Medi-Cal benefits are figured.

You can get the EITC refund going back three years if you filed your income tax but did not claim your EITC. You just need to turn in an amended income tax return. There is no late penalty for those earlier years.

You can get free tax help from Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. For a VITA site near you, or other tax information, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

Federal and State 48-Month Time limits

As of July 1, 2011, a parent or caretaker relative can only get CalWORKs cash aid for up to a lifetime total of 48 months. Cash aid received from CalWORKs, Tribal TANF and/or from any other state counts toward the 48-month limit.

- There are times when you can get aid past 48-months.
 These situations allow aid to continue past the time limit, or stop a month of aid from counting toward the time limit. Some of these exceptions are:
 - The limit does not apply to children.
 - A month on cash aid does not count toward the 48-month time limit when the person is:
 - ✓ Age 60 or older.
 - Exempt from taking part in Welfare-to-Work activities for certain reasons.
 - ✔ Disabled for 30 days or more.
 - ✓ And other reasons your worker can tell you.
- Other states may have different rules for the 48-month time limit.