

California Adult Education Program Implementation Meeting

September 19, 2024 ♦ 1:00pm-2:30pm

Meeting Agenda

Agenda Item		Purpose	Person(s) Responsible	Timeframe
I.	Introduction	A. Welcome	MaryAnn	5 min
II.	Minutes	A. Review & Approval of Minutes for April 18, 2024, May 16, 2024, June 20, 2024, July 18, 2024, August 15, 2024	Board	5 min
III.	Public Comment	A. Community Comments	Community	5 min
IV.	Director's Report	A. Director's Report (Interim)	Thatcher Weldon	10 min
V.	Professional Development	A. Parolee and Other Immigrant Services: <i>International Rescue Committee</i>	Jonathan Fein- Proano Hilda Ghazarian Michael Osta	45 min
VI.	Next Meeting	A. Next meeting date: October 17, 2024		
IX.	Adjourn	A. Adjournment		

Our Mission: The Glendale Community College Regional Consortium welcomes adult learners of all abilities and provides accessible pathways to skill acquisition and education towards viable employment, through multiple career partners.



Adult Education Implementation Virtual Meeting

April 18, 2024 ♦ 1:00pm-3:00pm

Attendees: Gamid Ahkmedov, Alees Gharibian, Hilda Ghazarian, Edith Gonzalez, Laura Isaacs-Galvan, Ani Khachikyan, Jonathan Pelletier, Melina Sardar

Board Members: Alfred Ramirez, Judith Velasco

Coordinator: MaryAnn Pranke

Meeting Notes

Agenda Item		Outcome
I.	Minutes	A. Approval of Minutes 1. Minutes for March 21, 2024 were presented and approved by the Board.
II.	CFAD	A. Consortium Fiscal Administrative Declaration (CFAD) 1. The CFAD was presented and approved by the Board. 2. MaryAnn will submit the CFAD to the Chancellor's Office by the deadline of May 2, 2024.
III.	Professional Development	A. Emotional Hijack: How to Not Take Things Personal! 1. Melina Sardar conducted the webinar.
IV.	Next Meeting	Next meeting will be held: May 16, 2024; 1:00-3:00pm

Adult Education Implementation Virtual Meeting

May 16, 2024 ♦ 1:00pm-3:00pm

Attendees: Edith Gonzalez, Ani Khachikyan, Peyman Malaz, Iskra Martinez, Jonathan Pelletier, Naomi Sato

Board Members: Alfred Ramirez

Coordinator: MaryAnn Pranke

Meeting Notes

Agenda Item		Outcome
I.	Minutes	A. Approval of Minutes 1. Postponed until next meeting due to the lack of quorum.
II.	Community Comments	A. No comments were submitted.
III.	Director's Report	A. Alfred announced to the group that he is retiring effective June 30, 2024; however, his last day will be June 20, 2024. 1. This will be Alfred's last meeting. 2. Vice President of Instruction, Michael Ritterbrown, will be the Interim Director. B. Summer session registration will be held June 12-13.
IV.	Strategic Planning	A. MaryAnn conducted a presentation on labor market information for March 2024 to set the stage for discussion on strategic planning. B. MaryAnn reviewed the challenges and needs identified for students and participants for the previous Annual Plan. 1. Team agreed that challenges related to the pandemic no longer apply. 2. The demand for adult education continues; however, even hiring new instructors does not solve the problem when there is a wait list because Garfield staff is limited and cannot process the hundreds of new students.

Agenda Item		Outcome
		<p>3. Attempted to integrate basic computer skills in lower-level ESL; however, this did not work. People need to increase language skills before they can increase computer skills.</p> <p>4. Jonathan noted that Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) is still seeing invisible disabilities identification as a challenge.</p> <p>5. Ani and Edith noted that the hiring process is much different now with everything happening online. Applications are submitted online but no response is received. Edith noted that English learners only seem to qualify for very entry level jobs.</p> <p>6. Team agreed that mental health issues continue to be barriers for students and participants. Mental health issues are linked to homelessness. Participants who are homeless will not show up to appointments and phone numbers change so frequently it is difficult to connect with them.</p> <p>7. Naomi noted that Medical Assistant students are not able to pay for books. Ani noted that students are confident in their skills as they work in their externships.</p> <p>8. Team agreed that they are dealing with multiple barriers including nondisclosed disabilities and mental health issues.</p> <p>A. MaryAnn reviewed the previous goals for any updates needed for 2024-25 Annual Plan.</p> <p>1. Team agreed that the goals verbiage related to the pandemic no longer apply.</p> <p>2. Team agreed all goals apply but need to be updated for post-pandemic and the challenges now being experienced.</p>
V.	Next Meeting	Next meeting will be held: June 20, 2024; 1:00-3:00pm



Adult Education Implementation Virtual Meeting

June 20, 2024 ♦ 1:00pm-3:00pm

Attendees: Alees Gharibian, Edith Gonzalez, Laura Isaacs-Galvan, Hilda Ghazarian, Ani Khachikyan, Caryn Panec, Jonathan Pelletier, Naomi Sato,

Board Members: Judith Velasco

Coordinator: MaryAnn Pranke

Meeting Notes

Agenda Item		Outcome
I.	Welcome	<p>A. MaryAnn welcomed the group and reminded the group that Alfred has now retired and will not be joining the meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MaryAnn reported that she will currently be reporting to Michael Ritterbrown, Vice President of Instructional Services until an interim Dean is hired.
II.	Minutes	<p>A. Approval of Minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Postponed until next meeting due to the lack of quorum.
III.	Community Comments	<p>A. No comments were submitted.</p>
IV.	Strategic Planning	<p>A. MaryAnn conducted a presentation summarizing the work that has been accomplished on strategic planning and asked for additional comments.</p> <p>B. Other challenges identified by the partners are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Childcare/Adult Care remains a barrier: Students are parents and continue to need childcare. Students are also caring for aging parents and need assistance with caregiving as well. 2. Students have outdated technology and software skills such as google workspace. 3. Resource Advocacy: Staff and faculty need more information on resources available to assist students address barriers and needs. 4. More information and resources are needed to assist students on their pathway to work legally and transition skills to U.S.A acceptance. For example: students with

Agenda Item		Outcome
		medical backgrounds need help finding the pathway for their skills to be recognized in this country.
V.	Partner Updates	<p>A. GYA: July 1st was the start date for summer programs that serve youth ages 14 – 24. Priority groups include CalWORKS recipients, former and current foster youth, and low income. GYA is also recruiting adult ed students from Garfield.</p> <p>B. Garfield ESL: Naomi reiterated that Alfred retired.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First week of summer session began. 2. A total of 81 classes are being offered for 2900 students. 3. Current waiting list for ESL: 1300 students. 4. In the fall, Naomi announced that “English for Work” will be offered, levels 1-5. Class would include use of idioms and slang. <p>C. IRC: IRC added asylees program and is targeting September for launching.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Also available for Parolees: 1-1 coaching on financial capability to build credit. 2. IRC now offers citizenship classes in 10 sites across Los Angeles. 3. IRC continues to offers literacy classes at level 1 and 2. 4. They are now piloting an employment program to offer to participants. <p>D. JVS: Edith noted that refugees can receive medi-cal and do not have to be undocumented.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JVS provides services to refugee parolees from Ukraine, Cuba, Haiti, Afghanistan. 2. Ukrainian housing program has been expanded. The cap is \$10K and participants must work at least 32 hours per week. Participants are referred by DCFS.
VI.	Next Meeting	Next meeting will be held: August 15, 2024; 1:00-3:00pm

Adult Education Implementation Virtual Meeting

July 18, 2024 ♦ 1:00pm-3:00pm

Attendees: Abigail Espericueta, Hilda Ghazarian, Ani Khachikyan, Naomi Sato,

Coordinator: MaryAnn Pranke

Meeting Notes

Agenda Item		Outcome
I.	Welcome	<p>A. MaryAnn welcomed the group and reminded the group that Alfred has now retired.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MaryAnn reported that she will currently be reporting to Michael Ritterbrown, Vice President of Instructional Services until an interim Dean is hired. 2. Naomi confirmed that someone has been hired but does not have any information yet.
II.	Minutes	<p>A. Approval of Minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Postponed until next meeting when the new director is appointed and quorum is confirmed.
III.	Community Comments	<p>A. No comments were submitted.</p>
IV.	Strategic Planning	<p>A. MaryAnn conducted a presentation summarizing the work that has been accomplished on strategic planning and asked for additional comments.</p> <p>B. Other needs identified by the partners are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Currently, Garfield campus has more students than they can handle. While they can hire more instructors and add more classes, they do not have the administrative staff to handle those duties to support the increase in students and classes. 2. Enrollment event had students lined up at 5am – 6am with lines around the corner. 3. MaryAnn asked if new immigrants were required by their support source to take classes. Hilda agreed that refugees referred by Department of Social Services (DPSS) are required to work an amount of hours per week, such as 30 hours, and some of those hours can be education and

Agenda Item		Outcome
		<p>training. This requirement could be contributing to the increase in enrollments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plans continue to launch the new Certified Nursing Assistant and Licensed Vocational Nurse in the fall and will need assistance for permanent job placement. Partners noted that perhaps Garfield instructors should drop students who are not showing up or are only using their enrollment verification to meet financial support requirements.
V.	Professional Development: Partner Updates	<p>A. Garfield ESL: Naomi announced the English for Work classes that will be offered at levels 1 through 5.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> They just received approval to offer all five levels. Classes will include idioms and slang used in the workplace and will launch in the fall. Currently have 3,500 students enrolled in ESL. Naomi has been asked to present at the Los Angeles Regional District Consortium in September. She will be presenting the integration of ESL in the short-term vocational programs at Garfield. <p>B. International Rescue Committee (IRC): IRC added asylees program and is targeting September for launching.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Also available for Parolees: 1-1 coaching on financial literacy to build credit and banking. IRC now offers citizenship classes in 10 sites across Los Angeles. IRC continues to offers ESL classes four hours per week. <p>C. Verdugo Jobs Center (VJC): The new program year began July 1st and are able to support tuition expenses and job placement to eligible students. VJC targets low income, English language learners, dislocated workers and veterans.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> VJC will continue to offer paid externships to medical and dental assistants and those in other short-term vocational training including office and accounting courses.

Agenda Item		Outcome
		2. Naomi suggested that Ani connect with Maria to connect with students and introduce VJC students to them.
VI.	Next Meeting	Next meeting will be held: August 15, 2024; 1:00-3:00pm

Adult Education Implementation Virtual Meeting

July 18, 2024 ♦ 1:00pm-3:00pm

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		2. Naomi suggested that Ani connect with Maria to connect with students and introduce VJC students to them.
VI.	Next Meeting	Next meeting will be held: August 15, 2024; 1:00-3:00pm

Adult Education Implementation Virtual Meeting

August 15, 2024 ♦ 1:00pm-3:00pm

Attendees:	Aarin Edwards, Abigail Espericueta, Edith Gonzalez, Narine Hovhanisyan, Laura Isaacs-Galvan, Ani Khachikyan, Julia Roman Romo, Naomi Sato
Interim Dean/Director:	Thatcher Weldon
Coordinator:	MaryAnn Pranke

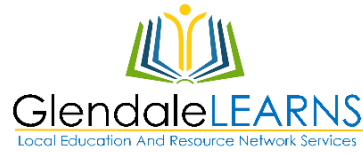
Meeting Notes

Agenda Item		Outcome
I.	Welcome	<p>A. MaryAnn welcomed and introduced the Interim Dean for Continuing and Adult Education, Thatcher Weldon.</p> <p>B. Thatcher introduced himself and provided an update on Garfield campus:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome Day is scheduled for August 28th from 9:30am-2:30pm. Offerings are for individuals 18 years of age or older. 2. The new semester begins on September 3rd. As of today, the wait list for ESL has more than 1,000 students.
II.	Minutes	<p>A. Approval of Minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Postponed until next meeting when the new director is publicly appointed and quorum is confirmed.
III.	Community Comments	<p>A. No comments were submitted.</p>
IV.	Strategic Planning	<p>A. MaryAnn conducted a presentation walking the members and partners through the CAEP Annual Plan prior to its submission today</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MaryAnn noted where feedback had been incorporated in the final version. 2. Additional feedback from the group included: the challenges in hiring qualified instructors for specialized courses such as healthcare and the efforts to make all instructors available to students including those enrolled in distance learning to maintain the community and sense of belonging that sets GCC apart from other adult education schools/colleges.

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		3. MaryAnn will add the feedback and submit the plan to the state today.
V.	Professional Development: Partner Updates	<p>A. Library: Julie introduced herself and she is the interim ESL Instructor at the Library.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. She noted that fall classes will begin in September including ESL, pre-citizenship, and computer classes. <p>B. Garfield ESL: Naomi announced that classes begin September 3rd.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current wait list for ESL is at 1,600. 2. New English for Work classes will be offered at levels 1 through 5. <p>C. JVS SoCal: Narine announced that the Ukrainian housing project has been extended through September. The program assists Ukrainian refugees with 25% of housing expenses for six months if they entered before September 2024. This program continues to offer classes for refugee seniors such as citizenship. Refugees are from Ukraine, Cuba, Afghanistan, and Haiti.</p> <p>D. Verdugo Jobs Center (VJC): Ani announced that the annual Tech Job Fair will be held on September 18th at the Pacific Community Center in Glendale. She will share the flyers as soon as they are ready.</p> <p>E. Glendale Youth Alliance (GYA): Laura announced that they continue to recruit young adults ages 18-24 who are looking for work. Any young adult student can be referred to Laura if they are looking for work including part-time.</p> <p>F. The Campbell Center (TCC): Abigail noted that TCC is hiring part-time positions for community integration and job coaching. She posted the link in the chat.</p>
VI.	Next Meeting	Next meeting will be held: September 19, 2024 from 1:00-3:00pm

Meeting Schedule

Program Year 2024 - 2025



Month	Date	Partner Presentation
July	July 18, 2024	Strategic Planning
August	August 15, 2024	Review of Final Strategic Plan
September	September 19, 2024	IRC: Parolee and Other Immigrant Services
October	October 17, 2024	Labor Market Report
November	November 21, 2024	Glendale Library Arts & Culture: Julia Roman Romo
December	December 19, 2024	
January	January 16, 2025	
February	February 20, 2025	
March	March 20, 2025	
April	April 17, 2025	
May	May 15, 2025	
June	June 19, 2022	

California Adult Education Program

The California Adult Education Program (CAEP), a collaboration between the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the California Department of Education, was established by Assembly Bill 104 in 2015. It allocates over \$640 million annually to 71 consortia statewide consisting of K12 adult schools, community colleges, and community and workforce partners to coordinate in the provision of education and career training leading to high school diplomas, english proficiency, and career readiness and technical skills.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

71

Consortia

480

Member Agencies

771

Community Partners

\$645M+

Annual Funding

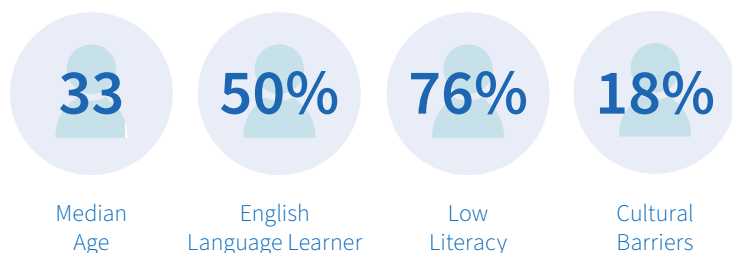
Since its inception, CAEP programs have served over **4 million** adults, expanding their opportunities through **measurable improvements in literacy**, engagement in civic and community activities, earning **high school diplomas** or equivalents, postsecondary **certificates and degrees**, **job** placement, **improved wages**, and transition into **postsecondary education**.

Local governing boards oversee consortia, allocating funds, developing and implementing regional plans and strategies, and monitoring and evaluating program outcomes to ensure alignment with established goals and responsiveness to community educational and workforce needs.

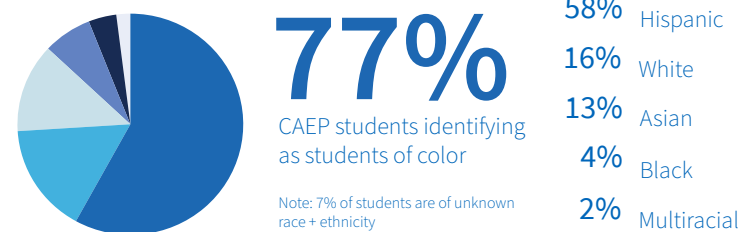


STUDENT PROFILE

Many types of students enroll in adult education programs reflecting the needs of their communities.



RACE + ETHNICITY



GENDER



Note: This data excludes unknown & non-respondents

Data Sources: Consortium, member, and partner counts are from Consortium 2022-25 three-year plans. Annual funding is for the 2023-24 program year. Student profiles reflect 2021-22 data from LaunchBoard, except median age (courtesy of CCCCC, calculated by WestEd). Program and outcomes data are from 2022-23, except transition metrics (transitions into postsecondary and employment after exit) which lag and reflect 2021-22. Enrollment by program area includes CAEP students with 12+ instructional hours (Participants). All outcomes are for students with 12+ hours. Counts are rounded for convenience. Calculations by WestEd. The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted enrollment in adult education programs. While enrollment has not yet reached pre-pandemic levels, it has shown positive growth and continues to trend upward.

*Program areas defined by California Education Code § 84913(a)(1)-(7) are English as a Second Language (ESL); Adult Basic and Secondary Education (ABE / ASE); Short-Term Career Education (CTE); programs for adults, including older adults, related to workforce entry or reentry; Pre-apprenticeship training programs coordinated with approved apprenticeship programs; programs for Adults with Disabilities (AWD), and programs for adults to develop skills to assist K-12 children in academic success (CAS).

PROGRAMS + OUTCOMES

CAEP funds support adult students 18 years and older and can be used in 7 approved program areas.¹

589,419

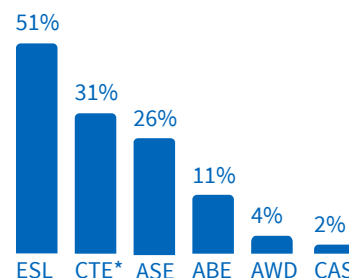
Reportable Individuals

+37% from 2020-21

480,318

Students with 12+ Instructional Hours

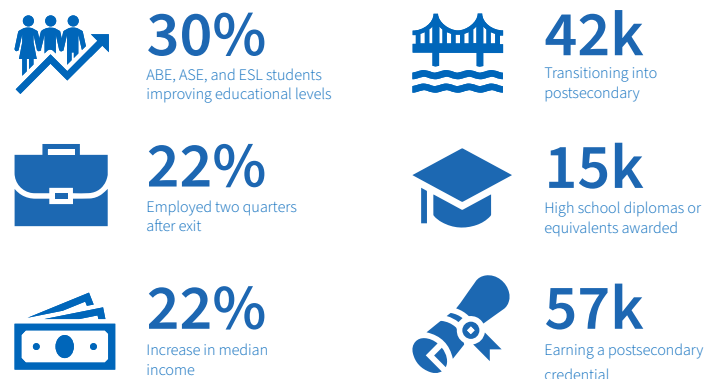
+40% from 2020-21



*Includes Participants in Workforce Preparation and Pre-Apprenticeship Training Programs

OUTCOMES

Adult education bolsters communities through enhanced literacy and employment.



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You Are Invited to Attend:

THE 2024 FALL INTO EMPLOYMENT HIRING SPREE

DATE 
10.10.24

TIME 
9am-2pm

East Los Angeles Civic Center
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- Get Supportive Help!
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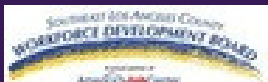
**JOB SEEKERS
REGISTER**



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department
of economic
opportunity
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Estas Invitado a Asistir:

Entra en la ola de Contratacion laboral del 2024

Fecha

10.10.24

Horario

9am-2pm



East Los Angeles Civic Center
4801 East 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Traer el curriculum y
vestirse para el éxito

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ԱՇԽԱՏԱՆՔԻ ԱՇԽԱՏԱՆՔՆԵ ՐԻ ԸՆԿՈՒՄԸ

ամսաթիվը. 10.10.24
Ժամեր 9am-2pm

East Los Angeles Civic Center
4801 East 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Բերե՛ք Ձեր ռեզյումեն և
զգեստը հաջողության համար:

- Միացե՛ք գործատուների
- հետ: Բացահայտե՛ք մի
- շարք աշխատատեղերի
- բացումներ:
- Հարցազրույցներ տեղում!
Ստացե՛ք աջակցող
օգնություն:

Մեկնե՛ք նոր աշխատանքի
և ավելի շատ
եկամուտների
հնարավորություններով:

Լրացուցիչ տեղեկությունների
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☆☆☆☆



department
of economic
opportunity
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CALWORKS) PROGRAM

CALWORKS EARNED INCOME DISREGARDS

Existing Law

The law allows for Earned Income Disregards (EIDs) not to be counted when determining CalWORKs eligibility and CalWORKs grant. Working CalWORKs families can benefit by receiving earnings, as well as CalWORKs benefits. According to policy, EIDs are deducted (not counted) from the family's earnings which results in less income being counted against the CalWORKs grant.

The CalWORKs grant is determined by applying the **Applicant/Recipient** tests for families at both Intake and Approved as follows:

Applicant EID

The Applicant EID is used to determine financial eligibility for CalWORKs applicants **by deducting \$450** from the family's monthly gross earned income which is then compared to the Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC) levels for the Assistance Unit (AU) family size, reflected below:

AU Size	MBSAC
1	\$899
2	\$1,476
3	\$1,829
4	\$2,170
5	\$2,476
6	\$2,785
7	\$3,061
8	\$3,331
9	\$3,614
10	\$3,922
More than 10	Add \$35 for each extra person

- If the applicant does not pass the Applicant test, then the CalWORKs case is denied as the applicant is ineligible to receive CalWORKs.
- If the applicant passes the Applicant test, then the Approved (Recipient) EID is applied to determine the CalWORKs benefits to which the family is entitled.

For example, for an Assistance Unit (family) of three:

Applicant Eligibility Determination Test

\$ 1,600.00	Actual Earned Income of Mother
<u>- 450.00</u>	Applicant EID (\$450 is used for each employed person)
\$ 1,150.00	Total Net Nonexempt Income (NNI) which is less than the \$1,753 MBSAC for three, so the family passes the Applicant test.

Note: The Applicant test is only used when a family applies for aid. Unearned income is also considered in the Applicant test.

Recipient EID

The **Recipient EIDs** are used to determine the total NNI. The NNI is calculated by using the Recipient Financial Eligibility test.

- If the applicant does not pass the Recipient Financial Eligibility test, then the CalWORKs case is denied.
- If the applicant passes the Recipient Financial Eligibility test, then the CalWORKs grant is determined.

The NNI is calculated by **deducting \$600** from the combined **gross** earned income; and **multiplying by 50 percent or dividing by 2** from the remaining balance.

Note: If the participant receives earned income and disability-based income, the \$600 disregard is deducted from the disability-based income first.

For perspective, an example is displayed below for an AU (family) size of three.

Recipient Financial Eligibility Test

\$ 1,600.00	Monthly Earned Income of Mother
<u>- 600.00</u>	\$600 EID
\$ 1,000.00	Subtotal
<u>- 500.00</u>	50 percent EID
\$ 500.00	Net Nonexempt Earned Income
\$ 500.00	Total NNI (rounded down) is less than \$1,171 Region 1, Nonexempt Family MAP for three, family passes Recipient Financial Eligibility test.

The CalWORKs grant is calculated as follows for families who pass the Recipient Financial Eligibility Test:

Grant Computation

\$ 1,171.00	Nonexempt Family MAP for Three
<u>- 500.00</u>	Total NNI
\$ 671.00	Potential Grant

CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CalWORKs) PROGRAM

CalWORKs is a public assistance program that gives cash aid and services to eligible families. If a family has little or no cash and needs housing, food, utilities, clothing, or medical care, they may be eligible to receive immediate short-term help. Families that apply and qualify for ongoing assistance receive money each month to help pay for housing, food, and other necessary expenses.

The amount of a family's monthly assistance payment depends on a number of factors, including the number of people who are eligible and the special needs of any of those family members. The income of the family is considered in calculating the amount of cash aid the family receives.

For Whom

Specific eligibility requirements take into account an applicant's citizenship or immigration status, age, income, resources, assets, and other factors. Services are available to:

- Single parent families that have a child(ren) in the home who is deprived of parental support or care because of the absence, disability, or death of either parent;
- Two-parent families with a child when the principal wage earner is unemployed or has not worked for more than 100 hours in the four weeks preceding the date of the application;
- Caretaker relatives (non-parent) caring for a child who is related within the 5th degree. This may include a child who is receiving any financial assistance, such as:
 - Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program;
 - Foster Care payments, such as Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care;
 - Approved Relative Caregiver; or
 - Kin-GAP.
- A pregnant person, who is in their first trimester.

Income Limits

The family's income must meet the gross income limit. Gross income may include income from employment, disability-based income, child/spousal support payments, Social Security benefits, etc.

For new applications, the gross income must be under the Minimum Basic Standard of Adequate Care (MBSAC) for the family.

If income is below MBSAC, a Recipient Test is applied where disregards/deductions are applied, \$600 disregard for certain disability-based income and earnings **and** a 50 percent

additional disregard for the remaining earnings. The net countable income must be less than the Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) level for the family size.

For approved ongoing cases, the gross income after applicable disregards must be less than the MAP level for the family size. Families whose countable income exceeds the MAP, but whose income remains below the new Tier 2 Income Reporting Threshold (130 percent of the FPL), will be considered a Zero Basic Grant (ZBG) case who will continue to be eligible to supportive services through Welfare-to-Work (WTW), homeless benefits, and recurring and nonrecurring special needs payments.

Property/Resource Limits

The family's property/resources must be at or below the property/resource limits:

- \$11,634 (cash on hand, savings, stocks, etc.), and \$17,452 if a member of the family is disabled, or age 60 or over.
- Applicants/Participants may retain non-exempt vehicles that have an equity value of \$32,968 or less. Equity is the amount of the Fair Market Value of the vehicle less encumbrances (amount owed on vehicle, if any). Any equity value in excess \$32,968 will be counted towards the property/resource limit.

Property/Resources that may be exempt from consideration may include:

- The home the applicant/participant resides in.
- Personal/Household items (furniture, appliances, etc.).
- Participants may hold special restricted savings accounts to be used for education/training, business, secure housing, or to purchase a home.
- CalABLE accounts - a tax-advantaged savings account that allows individuals with disabilities to save for disability-related expenses without losing eligibility to CalWORKs.
- CalKIDS account – is a college savings program for California children born on or after July 1, 2022, and low-income eligible students.

Other Requirements

Applicant/Participant families must also:

- Have a Social Security Number or have applied for one for each person requesting aid with some exceptions.
- Cooperate with Child Support requirements, with some exceptions.
- Provide immunizations for all children under the age of six who are not enrolled in school.
- Meet Welfare-to-Work requirements or meet an exemption.
- Meet Semi-Annual or Annual reporting requirements.

Time Limits

An aided adult (parent or caretaker relative) can only receive 60 months (5 years) of CalWORKs assistance with exceptions.

- The 60-month count includes months in which aid was received from other states (after 1/1/98). The months do not need to be consecutive.
- Months in which aid was received prior to January 1, 1998, are not counted.

Additional Benefits

- A special need allowance may be allowed for diets, transportation, etc.
- A special non-recurring allowance may be given to replace clothing and household equipment if the loss was due to a sudden and unusual circumstance (fire, flood, earthquake, etc.).
- A variety of Homeless Assistance Programs are available.
- A Diversion payment may be available for applicants who need help to meet a one-time-only expense that prevents current employment or who are likely to find employment in a short period.
- Child Care and other supportive services are available for Welfare-to-Work participants.

CalWORKs Payment Standards

The chart below reflects the CalWORKs MAP levels effective October 1, 2023.

Family Size	Current MAP (Exempt)¹	Current MAP (Non-Exempt)	Family Size	Current MAP (Exempt)¹	Current MAP (Non-Exempt)
1	\$807	\$732	6	\$2,117	\$1,896
2	\$1,036	\$927	7	\$2,388	\$2,139
3	\$1,310	\$1,171	8	\$2,661	\$2,382
4	\$1,574	\$1,412	9	\$2,930	\$2,623
5	\$1,844	\$1,654	10 or more	\$3,205	\$2,867

(1) To receive the MAP (higher) exemption the family must have an eligible child and each adult relative caretaker must receive one of the following benefits: Supplemental Security Income, In-Home Supportive Services, Security Disability Insurance, Temporary Workers' Compensation, Temporary Disability, or is a non-needy/non-parent caretaker relative.

How to Apply for CalWORKs Benefits

An application may be submitted via:

- Online - BenefitsCal website at <https://benefitscal.com/>;
- Phone – Call (866) 613-3777; or
- In Person – Visit the [DPSS website](https://dpss.lacounty.gov) to find the nearest office. You may speak to an Eligibility Worker or place your application in the drop box.

For detailed information, visit the DPSS website at <https://dpss.lacounty.gov>

CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS (CALWORKS) PROGRAM

REFUGEE CASH ASSISTANCE

Refugees/Asylees are persons who are unable to return to their own country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Refugees are persons who are located outside of the United States (U.S.) **and** were lawfully admitted to the U.S.

Asylees are similar to refugees but are already present in the U.S. when they are granted asylum. Asylees must participate in an immigration hearing or court process to determine if asylum will be granted; unlike a refugee.

Refugees/Asylees:

- May be eligible for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) benefits for 12 months;
 - **Refugees:** The 12-month timeframe is based on the “date of entry” the refugee was admitted into the U.S. Examples of verification are receipt of an I-94, Arrival Departure Record, or a passport which reflects the date of entry;
 - **Asylees:** The 12-month timeframe is based on the date the asylee was granted asylum. Examples of verification are receipt of an I-94, letter granting asylum, immigration order, or passport that indicates the person is an asylee;
 - **Human Trafficking Victim:** A person who is a victim of human trafficking. This status is confirmed by the receipt of a certification letter from the Office of Refugee Resettlement.
- Are not sponsored;
- May convert to permanent resident status after one year of residency in the U.S. and are issued an I-551, Permanent Resident Card, as documented proof; and
- Can apply for an I-766, employment authorization document.

For eligibility purposes, refugee encompasses the following groups: Refugees, Asylees, Cuban/Haitian Entrants, Special Immigrant Visa Holders, temporary eligibility to certain Humanitarian Parolees from Afghanistan and Ukraine as long as certain criteria is met; Amerasians, and Certified Victims of Human Trafficking.

RCA Program

- Single adults and couples without children can apply for and potentially receive RCA benefits.
- Refugee/Asylees with children can apply for and potentially receive CalWORKs benefits. If ineligible to CalWORKs benefits, eligibility for RCA is evaluated.

- Refugees/Asylees are also eligible to apply for the same assistance programs as U.S. citizens, including CalFresh, Medi-Cal, Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/State Supplementary Payment Program, **and** General Relief.
- Most of the program requirements, grant level, income/property requirements and the treatment of income which apply to CalWORKs also apply to RCA. However, unlike CalWORKs, RCA does not require that children be deprived because of absence, death, disability, or unemployment of a parent.
- The RCA Program and related administrative costs are 100 percent **federally funded** under the Refugee Resettlement Program.

Employment Services

- Refugee Employment Program (REP)

REP provides employment, educational, and training services to refugees who have been in the U.S. less than 60 months. As a condition of eligibility, all RCA applicants/participants are required to register for employment/training services with a DPSS contract REP service provider, unless determined to be exempt.

- Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN)

GAIN is the existing Welfare-to-Work (WtW) Program for all CalWORKs participants. Refugees who have been in the U.S. more than 60 months are served by GAIN. Participants in the GAIN Program are enrolled in WtW activities to assist them in obtaining employment and becoming self-sufficient.

Resettlement Agency Services

Resettlement services provided by the Resettlement Agencies for refugees include core services provided within the first 90 days of arrival in the U.S. and is generally received prior to a referral for social services. These services include reception and placement services; counseling and referral services in the areas of orientation, health, employment, and coordination with local services; and assistance to children separated from parents. Each Resettlement Agency provides a variety of optional services beyond these core services as the individual agency's ability permits. The resettlement assistance provided by the Resettlement Agencies is federally funded.

How To Apply

An application may be submitted for cash assistance via:

- Online - BenefitsCal website at <https://benefitscal.com> under the **Cash Assistance** option;
- Phone – Call (866) 613-3777; or
- In Person – Applicants may apply at one of the five following district offices: Glendale, Metro North, El Monte, South Family, and West Valley within Los Angeles County. For address information, please visit [DPSS website](#)



REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

The Los Angeles County Refugee Employment Program (REP) provides case management, employment training and placement services to refugees who have been in the United States for less than five years. The primary focus of REP services is to assist refugees in adapting to the American work environment, learn English, find employment, and ultimately achieve economic mobility.

The term “refugee” refers to the following list of eligible participants.

- Refugees
- Asylees
- Cuban Haitian Entrants
- Human Trafficking/Serious Crime Victims
- Special Immigrant Visa Holders
- Certain Humanitarian Parolees from Afghanistan, Cuba, Haiti, and Ukraine
- Certain Amerasians

REP is designed to help California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), CalFresh (CF), General Relief (GR), and unaided participants find employment that ultimately leads to economic mobility. The services may include:

- Case Management;
- Orientation and Job Readiness;
- Vocational Assessment;
- Basic Remedial Education;
- Vocational Skills Training;
- Job Search;
- Work Experience;
- Domestic Violence, Mental Health; and Substance Use Disorder
- Services;
- Supportive services including transportation, ancillary and child-care;
- Housing and Utility Assistance (contingent on available funds); and
- Post-Employment Services.

Participation in REP is mandatory for all refugee CalWORKs, RCA, and GR participants unless they are otherwise exempt. Exempt participants may volunteer to participate in REP. However, once a participant volunteers to enter the program they must adhere to the rules and regulations as a mandatory participant.

BACKGROUND

The Refugee Act of 1980 created the Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) to provide for the effective resettlement of refugees in the United States and to assist them in achieving economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible. Since 1980, the resettlement program has been the responsibility of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), which is part of the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health

and Human Services. Services for refugees through California's RRP are federally funded through grants from ORR. Funding sources include Refugee Support Services and Services to Older Refugees Set-Aside Funding.

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) administers the REP, contracting out case management services to JVS SoCal, under the Refugee Employment and Acculturation Services (REAS) contract.

Additionally, CalWORKs activities allowed under Senate Bill (SB) 1232, Family Stabilization (FS), and the State-funded Trafficking and Crimes Victims Assistance Program (TCVAP) are provided to eligible refugees under the REAS contract.

Except for individuals eligible under the TCVAP, REP participants must have an eligible "refugee" immigration status to receive ORR benefits and services. Individuals eligible for TCVAP services may include U-Visa applicants, U-Visa holders, those preparing to apply for a T-Visa, T-Visa applicants, and T-Visa holders not yet certified by the ORR.

REFUGEES SERVED

Approximately 48 percent of the refugees currently served in Los Angeles County are from Ukraine, 11 percent from Armenia, 9 percent from Cuba, 8 percent from Afghanistan, 4 percent from each Guatemala, Haiti, Iran, and Russia, 5 percent from other Latin American countries, and approximately 3 percent from African, Eastern European, and Asian countries combined.

CASELOAD	FFY 2024* (Oct 2023 – to date)	FFY 2023 (Oct 2022 - Sept 2023)	FFY 2022 (Oct 2021 - Sept 2022)
Total Refugees Served Under the REAS Contract – Annual Average*	3,408	2,826	700

* FFY 2024 caseload is as of May 2024, to date.

Source: REP-REAS Monthly Caseload Ad Hoc Report. The caseloads include REP federal RSS, State-TCVAP, SB1232 and FS refugees.

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

There are six (6) major REP key performance measures that are reported to CDSS/RPB and ORR through the Annual Outcome Goal Plan. DPSS reported the following performance measure rates for FFY 2023 (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023):

- Entered Employment – 23%;
- Federal Cash Assistance Terminations – 11%;
- Federal Cash Assistance Reductions – 0%;
- Offering of Health Benefits for Entered Full Time Employments – 10%;
- Average Hourly Wage for Entered Full Time Employments – \$16.48; and
- Ninety-day Employment Retention – 41%.