

## 15-100 A. CALWORKS TIME LIMITS

### Table of Contents

The **CalWORKs Time Limits** section includes the following information:

Topic
<a href="#">CalWORKs Time Limit Background</a>
<a href="#">CalWORKs Time Limit Exemptions / Clock Stoppers</a>
<a href="#">Time Limit Exemption Due to Caretaking Responsibilities</a>
<a href="#">Non-cash Time Limit Exemption</a>
<a href="#">Time Limit Exemption for Individuals Living in Indian Country</a>
<a href="#">TANF vs. CalWORKs Exemption Chart</a>
<a href="#">Criteria For CalWORKs Time Limit Extension</a>

### CalWORKs Time Limit Background

States are prohibited from using federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program funds to provide assistance to a family that includes a head of household or spouse of a head of household who received TANF funded assistance for 60 cumulative months.

Effective January 1, 1998, California implemented the State TANF program, CalWORKs, which set its own 60-month time limit on the receipt of aid for:

- Parents,
- Aided non-parent caretaker relatives and
- Aided stepparents.

Effective July 1, 2011, the California Department of Social Services implemented a new CalWORKs time limit for aided adults. Beginning July 1, 2011, adults shall only be eligible to receive CalWORKs for a maximum of 48 countable months. This new 48-month CalWORKs time clock replaces the 60-month CalWORKs time clock that was implemented effective January 1, 1998.

Months of aid received on and after January 1, 1998, including countable TANF funded aid in other states, count toward the aided adult's CalWORKs time limit, unless the month was one in which the adult met a "clock stopper" exemption.

CalWORKs recipients began to reach the CalWORKs 60-month time limit on January 1, 2003. Beginning July 1, 2011, adults who received 48 or more months of CalWORKs aid shall be discontinued from cash aid and removed from the Assistance Unit (AU), unless they are eligible for additional aid due to "time extender" exceptions.

Children who remain eligible for CalWORKs shall continue to receive aid under the Safety Net Program when all adults in the AU have been discontinued due to timing out.

**CalWORKs  
Time Limit  
Exemptions /  
Clock  
Stoppers**

Any month in which the following conditions exist (for the adult recipient) for any period during the month shall be considered **exempt** and shall not count toward the 48-month CalWORKs time limit:

<b>CALWORKS TIME LIMIT EXEMPTIONS</b>	
<b>EXEMPTION TYPE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>Disabled</b>	Disability that is expected to last at least 30 days
<b>Advanced Age</b>	Sixty (60) years of age or older
<b>Caretaking Responsibilities</b>	See <a href="#">Time Limit Exemption Due to Caretaking Responsibilities</a>
<b>Welfare To Work (WTW) Pregnant and Parenting Teens (PPT)</b> (formerly known as Cal-Learn participants)	Eligible for and either participating in or exempt from WTW PPT Program (both mandatory and voluntary participants) until they turn age 20 or graduate from high school or its equivalent.
<b>Non-Cash</b>	See <a href="#">Non-Cash Time Limit Exemption</a>
<b>Indian Country</b>	See <a href="#">Time Limit Exemption for Individuals Living in Indian Country</a>
<b>Child Support</b>	Cost of cash aid is <u>fully</u> reimbursed by child/family support
<b>Domestic Violence/Domestic Abuse</b>	Waives time limit requirements for individuals who are victims of domestic abuse—but only for so long as the abuse prevents the individual from obtaining employment or participating in WTW activities (see <a href="#">CPG 15-100 C., CalWORKs Time Limit Extender Categories</a> )
<b>Diversion</b>	Part or all of the diversion period may be exempt as outlined in <a href="#">Diversion Program regulations</a> .

**Note: All exemptions to the CalWORKs 48-month time limit must be verified and documented in the case file.**

**Time Limit  
Exemption  
Due to  
Caretaking  
Responsibilities**

Caretaking responsibilities as a CalWORKs time limit exemption is defined as:

- Providing care for an ill or incapacitated household member which impairs his/her ability to be regularly employed or to

participate in Welfare-to-Work (WTW) activities; or

- Providing care for a dependent child of the court, or a child who has been determined by the County as being at risk for placement in foster care, and
- The caretaking responsibilities are determined by the County to be beyond those considered normal day-to-day parenting responsibilities, and
- The added responsibility must impair the parent or caretaker's ability to be employed on a regular basis or to participate in Welfare-to-Work activities.

[Top](#)

---

### Non-Cash Time Limit Exemption

Meeting one of the following conditions qualifies a month of CalWORKs aid to be considered a Non-Cash exemption from the 48-month time limit. If the individual:

- Was active to CalWORKs but no cash aid was received because the grant amount was \$10 or less; or
- Is a former recipient of cash aid and/or is only receiving child care, case management or supportive services in the month; or
- Is excluded from the AU for reasons other than exceeding the time limit (i.e. WTW sanction).

---

### Time Limit Exemption for Individuals Living in Indian Country

Any month in which a client received CalWORKs while living in Indian Country, as defined by federal law, with an adult unemployment rate of 50% or higher, qualifies for a CalWORKs TOA exemption. To receive an exemption, clients must provide documentation to verify their residence during the reported timeframe. Workers can refer to the following desk aids for areas that qualified as eligible Indian Country for purposes of this exemption:

- [Eligible Indian Country in San Diego County for Time on Aid \(TOA\) Exemptions](#) for areas in San Diego County.
  - [Eligible Indian Country in California for Time on Aid \(TOA\) Exemptions](#) for areas outside of San Diego County
-

**TANF vs.  
CalWORKs  
Exemption  
Chart**

TANF and CalWORKs Exemptions (Clock Stoppers) differ as outlined in the chart below:

<b>TANF VS. CALWORKS EXEMPTIONS</b>		
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>TANF CLOCK STOPS?</b>	<b>CW CLOCK STOPS?</b>
Individuals age 60 or older	N	Y
Child under age 16	Y	Y
Cares for ill/incapacitated family member	N	Y
Single parent with primary responsibility for providing care for a child less than 12 weeks old:		
1. Not a member of the AU	N	N
2. A member of the AU	N	N
Good cause waiver to exempt time limit for domestic violence (extension)	N	Y
Child age 16 to 18 attending school full time	Y	Y
Pregnant and parenting teen eligible for or participating in WTW PPT Program	N	Y
Learning Disability Exempted	N	Y
Pregnant woman with a medical verification that the pregnancy impairs her ability to be regularly employed or participate in WTW activities	N	Y
Child Support fully reimbursed month of CW aid	N	Y
Aided non-parent caretaker relative who has primary responsibility for providing care for a child who is a dependent (ward) of the court.	N	Y
No supportive services available (extremely rare)	N	Y
Full-time volunteer in AmeriCorps VISTA	N	N
Medically verified disability expected to last for at least 30 days	N	Y
Non-cash/ <b>Grant equal to or less than \$10</b>	N	Y
<b>Indian Country</b> , as defined by Federal Law	Y	Y

[Top](#)



**Criteria for  
CalWORKs  
Time Limit  
Extension**

When an adult CalWORKs recipient has been aided for 48 months, cash aid may continue for that adult when **all** parents, aided stepparents, and/or caretaker relatives residing in the home of the aided child meet any of the extender conditions.

**Each** parent, aided stepparent, and/or caretaker relative in a two-parent household must be eligible for an extender in order for either to receive a CalWORKs Time Limit Extension. However, current victims of Domestic Violence/Domestic Abuse may have his/her aid extended due to the Domestic Abuse Good Cause Waiver **without** having all others in the AU meet an extender exception (see [CPG 15-100 C., CalWORKs Time Limit Extender Categories](#)).

When conducting a CalWORKs Time Limit Extension Evaluation, the HSS shall:

- Gather information to document that the individual meets the criteria for an extension, and
  - Grant the extension, if applicable, and
  - Document all related actions in CalWIN case comments.
-