

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
CalWORKs Program Guide**

CalWORKs Family Reunification Program

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40-183.D

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Revision Date:

October 27, 2016

Background:

Assembly Bill (AB) 429 states that CalWORKs recipients whose CalWORKs eligibility ends because their children were removed from the home by Child Welfare Services (CWS) may continue to participate in Welfare-to-Work (WTW) activities, and receive supportive services, if the CWS Social Worker and/or Juvenile Court deem services necessary to reunify the family.

Policy:

The CWS Social Worker, and/or the court may, authorize Family Reunification (FR) services for up to 180 days from the date the children are removed from the assistance unit (AU); the court may also grant the parent a good cause extension to the 180-day period.

40-183.D.1 Eligibility to Family Reunification Services

In order to receive FR services, all of the following conditions must be met:

- A CWS Social Worker, and/or the court, have determined that the provision of FR services is necessary for family reunification.
- The child(ren) have been removed from the home and placed in out-of-home care.
- The AU had been receiving CalWORKs when the child(ren) was/were removed. (SSI recipients, undocumented noncitizens, or timed-out parents are ineligible to FR services because he/she was not eligible to receive CalWORKs benefits)

When there are multiple children in the CalWORKs AU, but not all of the children are removed, and the AU becomes ineligible to CalWORKs due to income, the parent(s) may be eligible to FR services if there is a court-ordered reunification plan for the child(ren) who were removed.

40-183.D.2 Welfare-to-Work

The court ordered reunification plan will be used to develop the WTW plan. Individuals who fail to participate in WTW activities or any other activities required under the FR plan are not subject to the WTW noncompliance or sanctioning process. WTW services will continue to be provided until the FR plan is terminated by the CWS Social Worker.

40-183.D.3 Aid Codes

Family Reunification cases will be identified under aid codes 4P or 4R.

- 4P aid code (All Families): Provides for continuance of FR services (no cash aid) to all families except two-parent families.
- 4R aid code (Two Parent Households): Provides for continuance of FR services (no cash aid) to two-parent families.

40-183.D.4 Eligibility for Medi-Cal

Family reunification parents are ineligible to cash-linked Medi-Cal through CalWORKs; therefore an evaluation for Medi-Cal must be completed.

40-183.D.5 Eligibility for CalFresh

Family Reunification households do not receive a cash grant therefore FR families are eligible for Transitional CalFresh benefits (TCF) in the month in which CalWORKs benefits are reduced to zero when FR services begin.

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40-183.D.6 Period Report

Reunification families are not required to submit a periodic report for CalWORKs.

40-183.D.7 Redetermination

Redetermination of eligibility will be made at six-month intervals in coordination with the Juvenile Court's review of the family reunification plan. If they are determined eligible, the existing certification period will be changed to align with the reunification plan.

When a family is reunified, a CalWORKs redetermination must be completed in order to reopen the CalWORKs case. Once a redetermination is completed, if they are eligible, CalWORKs benefits will be issued effective the first of the following month after the family is reunified.

Procedure:

CPG Processing Guide 40-183.D.1

Program Impacts:

Automation
BEnDS 1443

Forms and Document Capture

All manual forms and notices must be imaged in to CERMS

References:

ACL 02-36 (<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl02/pdf/02-36.pdf>)
ACL 03-52 (<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl03/pdf/03-52.pdf>)
ACL 11-04 (<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl/2011/11-04.pdf>)
ACIN I-49-04 (http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acin04/pdf/I-49_04.pdf)
ACWDL 04-29 (<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Documents/c04-29.pdf>)
EAS 42-711.512 (<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/entres/getinfo/pdf/6EAS.pdf>)
EAS 80-301.3 (<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/entres/getinfo/pdf/21EAS.pdf>)
EAS 82-812.684 (<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/entres/getinfo/pdf/23EAS.pdf>)

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by October 31, 2019

Approval for Release:



Rick Wanne, Director
Eligibility Operations