

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

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Revision Date:

April 1, 2021

Background:

Cal-Learn (CL) serves CalWORKs recipients under 20 years of age who are pregnant or custodial parents and who have not received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

To encourage teen parents to stay in or return to school and earn a high school diploma or its equivalent, the CL Program provides financial incentives and disincentives as well as supportive services and intensive case management.

Purpose:

The purpose of this revision is to remove all procedures from this CalWORKs Program Guide (CPG) section and move all processes to the Processing Guide, add clarifying language and align with current format for sunset review purposes.

Policy:

All pregnant and custodial parenting teens under the age of 19 are mandated to participate in the CL program (new referrals are made for teens up to 18 years 11 months old only). At the time the teen turns 19 years old, if they are enrolled and attending school full-time, the teen can elect to stay in CL as a volunteer until obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent or until they reach 20 years of age.

Program Requirements

Terms	Requirements
Full Time Enrollment	Every CL teen is required to be enrolled full-time in a school program that will lead to a high school diploma or equivalent. Examples of equivalents are General Educational Development (GED) or California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) certificates. The enrollment requirement remains in effect until the teen earns a high school diploma, or its equivalent, or reaches the maximum age. If a teen is enrolled in school part-time, the teen is eligible for supportive services. However, teens not enrolled full-time are subject to sanctions for not meeting the CL full-time enrollment requirement.
English as a Second Language (ESL)	A teen parent assessed as being extremely limited in English language proficiency, and who cannot participate in a bilingual learning program, can meet CL participation requirements by attending a full-time ESL program as a prerequisite to high school or GED classes.
Nineteen-Year Old Voluntary Participation	A teen is mandated to participate in CL until their 19 th birthday or until earning a high school diploma or equivalent. If the teen is enrolled and attending school full-time during the month they turn 19 years old, the teen can voluntarily stay in CL until receiving a high school diploma or until they reach 20 years of age If, after volunteering to continue in CL, the teen decides they no longer wish to remain in CL, the teen may voluntarily exit the program. The case manager is required to obtain a written statement from the teen regarding their intent to

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Terms	Requirements
	<p>voluntarily exit the CL program for the CL case record.</p> <p>If the teen was not enrolled in or attending school full-time in the month they turned 19 years old, the teen will be exited from CL and referred to the Employment Services (ES) program. All CL exited customers are mandated to participate in ES as long as they remain active on CalWORKs, unless exempted from ES.</p>
Bonuses	<p>An assistance unit (AU) with a CL teen parent shall receive a \$100 bonus payment up to four times in a 12-month period for each CL teen parent who is enrolled full time and makes at least satisfactory progress in their school program.</p> <p>Each participating CL teen parent earning a high school diploma or its equivalent shall receive a one-time bonus of \$500 paid directly to the teen if the diploma is obtained before the age of 20 and after 90 days of participation in the program.</p>
Sanctions	<p>An AU with a CL teen parent may receive up to four \$100 sanctions in a 12-month period for each CL teen parent who fails to make adequate progress in their school program without demonstrating good cause. The sanction is reduced to \$50 when a teen makes satisfactory progress but fails to submit the required report card or progress report on time without good reason.</p> <p>Voluntary CL participants (19-20 years old) are subject to the same participation requirements and penalty consequences as mandated teens and sanctions are to be applied as appropriate. The teen is no longer eligible to the CL program on a volunteer basis, without verification of full-time school attendance. The teen will be exited from CL program and referred to Employment Services</p> <p>A voluntary CL teen can choose to end their participation with the CL program at any time. If a voluntary CL teen chooses to exit the program after earning a sanction, the sanction is still to be imposed.</p> <p>CL sanctions remain valid and the sanction period is to follow the teen; even if the teen is no longer participating in CL.</p> <p>A valid CL sanction request for a teen parent who is no longer active in the CL Program shall follow the teen parent and be applied to the AU in which the teen parent is a member at the time the sanction is applied.</p>
Supportive Payments	<p>The CL Program provides for childcare, transportation, and ancillary expense payments to enable a teen parent to continue in or to enroll in school, or school combined with employment and to participate in case management services. Child Care supportive services are also available to teens who require this supportive service for employment reasons.</p>

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Terms	Requirements
Case Management	<p>Counties can provide case management in accordance with Adolescent and Family Life Program (AFLP) standards which supports graduation from high school or equivalent, for youth 21 years of age or younger, subject to CL guidance and or they at any stage of pregnancy or parenting may be eligible.</p> <p>These services will include linking each teen parent to needed health and social services available in the teen parent’s community.</p> <p>Case management services are to be provided in an efficient, supportive and effective manner. Case management will be teen parent centered, culturally appropriate and goal oriented. It will be interactive, involve the teen parent and the teen parent’s family, significant others and support persons as equal partners with the case manager. This will help identify needs and define ways to meet those needs, as building interpersonal relationships among the teen, case managers and others is both a method and goal of case management.</p>

References:

- MPP 42-762.1
- MPP 42-762.2
- CPG 10-020 A. Welfare-to-Work Exemptions
- ACL No. 20-21

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by March 31, 2024.

Approval for Release:



Rick Wanne, Director
Self-Sufficiency Services