



# CalWORKs Diversion Program FACT SHEET September 2025



## Diversion Program Overview

The Diversion program can offer an alternative to the CalWORKs assistance program to eligible CalWORKs applicants by providing a one-time lump sum payment to meet a specific need. The applicant receives the lump sum payment instead of CalWORKs.

## Sacramento County Policy

Diversion may be offered to a CalWORKs applicant if the applicant is identified by the county as a possible candidate who might benefit from the Diversion program.

## Eligibility Factors

To be offered Diversion, the applicant must be apparently eligible for the CalWORKs program. Some of the eligibility factors are:

- Deprivation: there must be a child who is deprived of parental support.
- Income: the applicant must be under certain income limits.
- Property: the applicant cannot have property worth more than the property limits.

## Additional Diversion Factors

To be offered Diversion, an applicant must also meet the factors of the Sacramento County Diversion Policy:

- The applicant is or will be employed within 10 working days **or** the family anticipates other income (Unemployment, Social Security Benefits, etc.) within 30 days **and** the income will be enough to meet their needs
- The lump-sum diversion payment covers a specific and nonrecurring need that is due to an unforeseen event and **not** due to mismanagement of income
- The lump-sum diversion payment will allow the family to avoid the need for CalWORKs for a period of time called the diversion period.

## Repayment of Diversion

If the family reapplies and receives CalWORKs during the diversion period:

- The lump sum payment would have to be repaid through a grant reduction **or**
- The lifetime time-on-aid clock for the parent(s) would tick for all the months of the diversion period.

Please see the [CalWORKs Fact Sheet](#) for a more detailed description of the eligibility factors and time on aid clocks.