

CalWORKs Diversion Program Fact Sheet

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.