



APRIL 2026

**NEWSLETTER
PURPOSE**

- To share:
 - Pertinent updates on CalWORKs policy changes and implementation related to SB 119
 - Non-Compliance and Sanctions All County Letter 26-28
 - Upcoming community engagement
 - Webinar on optional Job Search/Job Club on May 19, 2026, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

OVERVIEW

The [California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids \(CalWORKs\) program](#) provides cash assistance, employment services, and other benefits to low-income families with children.

The Transforming CalWORKs Initiative pairs a set of significant policy reforms enacted through [Senate Bill \(SB\) 119](#) with an effort to cultivate a culture shift and implement a more holistic, family-centered, and family-driven approach to administering the CalWORKs program. Transforming CalWORKs will enable us to reimagine CalWORKs in ways that center families' voice and choice, improve access to services, and reduce penalties and administrative burden for families and county workers.

APRIL IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES:**1. Non-Compliance and Sanctions**

- [All County Letter \(ACL\) 26-28 \(April 24, 2026\)](#), Transforming CalWORKs: Changes To Welfare To Work Non-Compliance And Sanctions
- Policy changes effective July 29, 2025
 - Good Cause Determinations:
 - Participants can now reschedule their good cause determination appointment more than once within the 20-calendar-day timeframe when counties notify them that the program non-compliance process has been started against them.



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- Policy changes that take effect July 1, 2026:
 - Child Care Check:
 - Before carrying out a WTW sanction, counties must first confirm that participants were provided with a request form and the reimbursement rules for child care, and
 - If a participant is eligible for and requests child care supportive services, the participant secured child care.
 - Sanctioned participants who reapply for aid and are approved automatically have their sanction cured.
- Policy changes that take effect once automation is complete:
 - No Sanctions During the First 90-Days:
 - No WTW financial sanction can be applied during the first 90-days of being approved for aid.
 - Curing WTW Sanctions is Simplified:
 - Sanctioned participants can clear their sanction when they do any of the following:
 - Tell the county verbally or in writing that they want to cure their sanction and begin participating in WTW activities; or
 - The county verifies or otherwise discovers that the participant is or has been meeting their minimum weekly work hours for WTW participation

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:

- i. **Webinar - Optional Job Search/Job Club Activities**
 - The Child and Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC) will host a webinar with the CDSS on policy changes for the job search and job club activities
 - **When:** May 19, 2026 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
 - **Register:** Sign up via [ZOOM Registration Link](#)

RESOURCES:

- Visit the [Transforming CalWORKs Initiative](#) webpage for more information
- For reference or other information, visit the [CDSS Letters-and-Notices](#) webpage