



# TRANSFORMING CALWORKS INITIATIVE



May 2026

## NEWSLETTER PURPOSE

- To share pertinent updates on CalWORKs policy changes and implementation related to SB 119
  - Transportation Services All County Letter 26-31
  - Job Search Activity All County Letter 26-32
- Upcoming community engagement webinars
  - Optional Job Search Activity, May 19, 2026, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
  - Transportation Services May 26, 2026, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
  - Welfare-to-Work Sanctions June 9, 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.

## MAY IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES:

### 1. Job Search as a WTW Activity Choice

- [ACL 26-32 \(May 8, 2026\)](#), Transforming CalWORKs: Job Search as a Welfare-to-Work Activity Choice
- Policy changes effective July 1, 2026:
  - The opportunity to participate in job search activities may be offered to WTW participants at any point in the WTW flow
  - WTW participants in job search on July 1, 2026, must be informed that they may choose to continue to participate in the activity or can request another activity



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### 2. Transportation Supportive Services Advance Payment

- [All County Letter \(ACL\) 26-31 \(May 1, 2026\)](#), Transforming CalWORKs: Implementation of Advance Transportation Payments and Other Changes To Transportation Services
- Policy changes effective July 1, 2026:
  - All transportation supportive services must be provided before participants take part in their Welfare To Work (WTW) activities
    - Counties must tell participants of the options available, and they must be allowed to indicate their choice based on this availability
    - When a participant's actual costs of transportation exceed their advance payment, they are due for the difference as soon as possible
  - Transportation costs must include payment for transporting child(ren) when necessary for the participant to take part in their activities
  - Counties may offer transportation supportive services, including, but not limited to:
    - bus passes, van pools, or rideshare services
    - costs related to using a private vehicle, car repairs, or car ownership programs
    - parking or tolls
  - Refer to the ACL for full details on all the transportation changes.

### SUPPORTING COUNTY IMPLEMENTATION

Counties are encouraged to register and attend the following implementation webinar series.

- Optional Job Search/Job Club Activities:** May 19, 2026, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
  - **Register:** [ZOOM Registration Link \(Optional Job Search\)](#)
- Transportation Supportive Services:** May 26, 2026, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
  - **Register:** [ZOOM Registration Link \(Transportation\)](#)
- Welfare to Work Sanctions:** June 9, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
  - Register: Sign up via [ZOOM Registration Link \(Sanctions\)](#)

### RESOURCES:

- Visit the [Transforming CalWORKs Initiative](#) webpage for more information
- Visit the [CDSS Letters-and-Notices](#) webpage for more resources and information