

AB 273 (Aguiar-Curry): Child Care Services: Eligibility Overview & Adult School Guidance

Background

California's subsidized child care system is designed to provide assistance to parents and guardians who are working, in training, seeking employment, incapacitated, or in need of respite. Parents participating in CalWORKs, as well as families transitioning off of and no longer receiving CalWORKs aid, can be eligible for child care; however, certain eligibility and prioritization rules apply to subsidized child care in California. Generally, CalWORKs participants are eligible to receive subsidized child care if they are employed or if they are participating in approved Welfare to Work activities. Non-CalWORKs families are eligible if they meet at least one of the following eligibility requirements and one of the following need requirements.

- Eligibility requirements: Currently receiving aid, being income-eligible, being homeless, or having children who are recipients of protective services or who have been identified as being or at risk of being, abused, neglected, or exploited.
- Need requirements: Either the child has to have been identified by a legal, medical, or social services agency or emergency shelter as being a recipient of protective services or being (or at risk of being) abused, neglected or exploited, or the parents need to be employed or seeking employment, engaged in vocational training, seeking permanent housing for family stability, or incapacitated.

Income eligibility for families who are not on CalWORKs require that a family cannot earn more than 70% of the FY 2007-08 state median income, or \$3,518 per month for a family of three, in order to receive subsidized child care from the APPs.

The state's subsidized child care and development services are delivered to eligible families through two categories of providers – providers with a direct service contract with the California Department of Education (CDE) (licensed Title 5 programs) and Title 22 (Alternative Payment Programs/vouchers) licensed and licensed-exempt general child care providers. Title 5 child care providers must meet education and training standards that exceed those of Title 22 child care providers (licensed and license-exempt), as well as provide an educational component.

Families are eligible for non-CalWORKs subsidized child care if they meet at least one requirement in each of two areas: eligibility and need. First, they must meet one of the eligibility criteria, which are: currently receiving aid, being income-eligible, being homeless, or having children who are recipients of protective services or who have been identified as being, or at risk of being, abused, neglected, or exploited. Secondly, the family must meet one of the "need" requirements: either the child has to have been identified by a legal, medical, or social services agency or emergency shelter as being a recipient of protective services or being (or at risk of being) abused, neglected or exploited, or the parents need to be employed or seeking employment, engaged in vocational training, seeking permanent housing for family stability, or incapacitated.

AB 273 (Aguiar-Curry) Overview

AB 273 provides Californians who want to work an opportunity to get the education and training that they need by expanding the eligibility criteria of subsidized child care services to those who are participating in English as a Second language or High School Equivalency courses.

Adult School Applicability & Guidance

As K12 adult educators know well, both English proficiency and the acquisition of a high school education have been shown to have positive impacts on employment and earnings, and are arguably fundamental steps in achieving higher levels of education and increased earnings related to these higher levels of education.

Further, English-speaking ability influences an individual worker's ability to succeed, regardless of the particular language spoken at home. The degree to which a person can communicate in English influences employment status, and once employed, his or her ability to find full-time, year-round employment. Even among those who have full employment, those with the highest ability to speak English have the highest earnings.

The passage of AB 273 will help ensure that parents and adult caretakers of children can pursue an education that will allow both them and their families greater socioeconomic mobility. Many families require state supported child care services in order to continue with their education and work towards a profession; however, costly child care services may prove burdensome for lower income families, disproportionately impacting single mothers and women of color. This change will empower parents to increase their educational level by providing families with greater access to subsidized child care services.

For more information, please see

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB273.