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An act to add and repeal Article 3.4 (commencing with Section 11330.6) of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to CalWORKs.



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Article 3.4 (commencing with Section 11330.6) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

Article 3.4. CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative Program

11330.6. (a) (1) The Legislature hereby establishes the CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative as a voluntary program for the purpose of supporting health outcomes for pregnant and parenting women and infants born into poverty, expanding their future educational, economic, and financial capability opportunities, and improving the likelihood that they will exit poverty.

(2) The program is intended to provide up to 24 months of high-quality, evidence-based, culturally competent services that meet the needs of at-risk assistance units, including those in underserved, rural, tribal, impoverished, and other communities.

(b) The program established in this article is optional for counties, and counties that opt into the program shall agree to the terms of this article and shall submit a written plan for approval by the department describing how the program's purposes, as specified in subdivision (a), will be accomplished.

(c) (1) Subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act, the department shall allocate funds to participating counties for the purpose of this section in order to provide voluntary evidence-based home visiting services to any assistance unit that meets the requirements of this section. The services authorized pursuant to this section are not entitlement services. Funding appropriated for the purpose of home visiting services provided under this article shall not supplant any other existing funding sources available for home visiting services.

(2) Participation in the program shall not be considered a condition of CalWORKs eligibility and this shall be explained in the document required pursuant to paragraph (3).

(3) Participation in the program shall be offered to the parent or caretaker relative. A document that includes a description of the program, its anticipated benefits and duration, and a description of how to terminate participation shall be given to the parent or caretaker relative.

(4) Assistance units agreeing to receive services under this article need not be eligible for, nor shall be required to participate in, the welfare-to-work program established pursuant to Article 3.2 (commencing with Section 11320).

(5) Participation in the program shall not affect a family's application for aid or eligibility for any other CalWORKs benefits, supports, or services, including, but not limited to, welfare-to-work exemptions pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 11320.3, good cause for not participating pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 11320.3, participating in housing support services pursuant to Article 3.3 (commencing with Section 11330), or participating in family stabilization pursuant to Section 11325.24.

(d) A voluntary participant shall meet all of the following criteria:

(1) The individual is a member of a CalWORKs assistance unit, or the parent or caretaker relative for a child-only case.



(2) The individual is pregnant, or is a first-time parent or caretaker relative of a child who is less than twenty-four months of age, at the time he or she agrees to participate in the program.

(3) The individual is under twenty-five years of age at the time he or she agrees to participate in the program.

(e) For purposes of this article, the following terms have the following definitions:

(1) "Evidence-based home visiting" means a home visiting model approved by the department, which shall be evaluated considering criteria developed by the United States Department of Health and Human Services for evidence-based home visiting.

(2) "Home" means a temporary or permanent residence or living space, or another location identified by the assistance unit in the case that the assistance unit is homeless.

11330.7. (a) A primary component of the program described in this article shall be case management and evidence-based home visiting for the purpose of family support, which shall commence upon the determination that an individual is eligible in accordance with subdivision (d) of Section 11330.6 and shall continue throughout the period of eligibility.

(b) Home visiting shall be offered for a period of up to 24 months and shall include, but not be limited to, resources and referrals relating to all of the following:

(1) Prenatal, infant, and toddler care.

(2) Infant and child nutrition.

(3) Developmental screening and assessments.

(4) Parent education, parent and child interaction, child development, and child care.

(5) Job readiness and barrier removal.

(c) Home visitors shall encourage participants to enroll their child in a high-quality, early learning setting, or participate in playgroups, or other child enrichment activities, as appropriate, and parent participation in this early learning setting shall count towards allowable activities under a welfare-to-work plan developed by the parent or caretaker relative under Section 11325.21.

(d) Home visiting services shall only be those intended to achieve the goals established in subdivision (a) of Section 11330.6 and that are provided in the home of an assistance unit. Home visiting services shall only be provided by a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, social worker, or other person able to provide culturally appropriate services who is trained and certified according to the criteria of the evidence-based home visiting program utilized.

11330.8. (a) For purposes of implementing this article, the department shall consult with stakeholders, including legislative staff, representatives of counties and county human services agencies, current or former CalWORKs clients, advocates for clients, local and state First 5 representatives, the State Department of Health Care Services, and the State Department of Public Health home visiting program administrators, and other stakeholders.

(b) The department shall collect, and counties and participating home visitation organizations shall provide, data related to the outcomes of participants and children by race, ethnicity, national origin, primary and secondary language, and county. The data shall include program outcomes for the parents and children served in the program and these data components shall be developed in consultation with the stakeholders referenced in subdivision (a).



(c) (1) The department shall work with an independent, research-based institution to establish outcome measurements. These measurements shall inform an evaluation report that shall be provided to the Legislature no later than January 10, 2022. The evaluation shall include program outcomes for the parents and children served in the program. Notwithstanding any other law, the department may accept and expend funds from nongovernment sources for the evaluation. The report shall also include, but not be limited to, all of the following information, with respect to the period of evaluation:

- (A) Attendance at well-baby visits with a pediatrician and, if available, immunization rates.
- (B) Progress in meeting developmental milestones.
- (C) Participation in early learning programs.
- (D) Service referrals by type.
- (E) Services accessed by type.
- (F) Number of home visits completed.
- (G) Parental confidence and competence.
- (H) Food and housing stability.
- (I) Earnings.
- (J) Participation in English as a Second Language programs, if applicable.
- (K) Access to immigration services and remedies.

(2) A report to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(3) The requirement for submitting a report pursuant to paragraph (1) is inoperative on January 10, 2026, pursuant to Section 10231.5 of the Government Code. 11330.9. This article shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2024, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute that is enacted before January 1, 2024, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 2. Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), the State Department of Social Services may implement and administer this act through all-county letters or similar instructions until regulations are adopted.

SEC. 3. No appropriation pursuant to Section 15200 of the Welfare and Institutions Code shall be made for purposes of implementing this act.



LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

Bill No.
as introduced, _____
General Subject: CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative Program.

Existing law requires each county to provide cash assistance and other social services to needy families through the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program using federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program, state, and county funds.

This bill would, until January 1, 2024, establish the CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative as a voluntary program for the purpose of supporting health outcomes for eligible pregnant and parenting women and infants born into poverty, expanding their future educational, economic, and financial capability opportunities, and improving the likelihood that they will exit poverty. The bill would include case management and evidence-based home visiting, as defined, as a primary component of the program, and would require home visiting to be offered for a period of up to 24 months and to include, but not be limited to, specified resources and referrals relating to prenatal, infant, and toddler care, among other things. The bill would authorize counties to opt into the program, and would require counties that do opt in to agree to the terms of the program and to submit a written plan, as specified, describing how the program's purposes will be accomplished. The bill would, subject to an appropriation in the annual Budget Act, require the department to allocate funds to participating counties for the purposes of the program. The bill would require the department to implement and administer these provisions through all-county letters or similar instructions until regulations are adopted.

This bill would require the department to consult with specified stakeholders for purposes of implementing the program. The bill would also require the department to collect data related to the outcomes of participants and children, to work with an independent research-based institution to establish outcome measurements, and to provide an evaluation report to the Legislature no later than January 10, 2022, as specified.

Existing law continuously appropriates moneys from the General Fund to defray a portion of county costs under the CalWORKs program.

This bill would instead provide that the continuous appropriation would not be made for purposes of implementing the bill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

