

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA SOLIS
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SUPPORT OUR CalWORKs PROGRAM WORKING FAMILIES

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) is a time-limited public assistance program that provides cash assistance to eligible needy families with children and expecting mothers to help pay for housing, food, utilities, clothing, and other necessary expenses. Employment training and support services such as child care and transportation are also provided to eligible participants.

Participant eligibility and the amount of aid awarded, is based on a variety of factors such as the family's income and Earned Income Disregards (EID). EID allows families to have a certain amount of their monthly income disregarded without affecting their total CalWORKS grant. The current EID was established in 1998, based on the minimum wage at that time, \$5 an hour; it has not been updated since.

As of January 1, 2018, the State minimum wage is \$11 an hour, and is scheduled to increase to \$15 an hour by January 1, 2022.

With the scheduled State minimum wage increases, it is becoming more difficult for working families to have access to support services through CalWORKs. Counties such as Los Angeles and San Francisco will be significantly impacted before other counties within the State as the scheduled minimum wage of \$15 an hour in these counties (San Francisco – July 2018 and Los Angeles July 2020) have been/will be implemented before the Statewide minimum wage increase.

As of June 2018, there are 128,145 CalWORKs families in Los Angeles County of which 34,232 (26.71%) are working families. The loss or reduction in CalWORKs benefits would have the following impact on families:

- Eliminate employment services needed to ensure long term economic independence and self-sufficiency;
- Result in less work experience opportunities and services for families; and
- Create barriers for parents to stay in the workforce due to the lack of training, lack of work experience, and loss of child care.

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Without access to employment services, many CalWORKs families, especially single mothers, will be at risk of becoming homeless.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Social Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive office, to:

- 1) Analyze the impact of the increases to the minimum wage to the CalWORKs Program;
- 2) Conduct an analysis of the EID levels for both CalWORKs applicants and recipients;
- 3) Submit a legislative proposal to amend the EID levels in the CalWORKs Program in order to help families continue to access CalWORKs benefits and services such as child care, employment and transportation services that will help them remain employed and help prevent them from becoming homeless.

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