

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 24, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1324

Introduced by Assembly Member Members Sharp-Collins and Lee
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Ransom)

February 21, 2025

An act to amend Sections 11157, 11201, 11250.4, 11322.6, and 11322.64 of, and to add ~~Section 11267 to, and repeal Section 11267 of,~~ the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1324, as amended, Sharp-Collins. CalWORKs.

Existing federal law, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, replaced the federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program with the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant program. Existing federal law provides for allocation of federal funds through the federal TANF block grant program to eligible states. Existing law establishes the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, under which, through a combination of state and county funds and federal funds received through the TANF program, each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families. Under existing law, certain types of payments received by recipients of aid under the CalWORKs program, including income from a college work-study program, as specified, are exempt from consideration as income for purposes of determining eligibility and aid amount.

This bill would additionally exempt as income an in-kind gift ~~that is treated as exempt income in the CalFresh program,~~ or income that has

been paid to a noncustodial parent and is treated as exempt income in the CalFresh program. *parent.* By expanding the scope of eligibility for CalWORKs, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law requires aid to be granted to a family with a related child under 18 years of age who has been deprived of parental support or care due to the unemployment, continued absence, death, incapacity, or incarceration of a parent. Existing law considers a child to be deprived of parental support or care due to unemployment of the child's parent or parents when the parent has worked less than 100 hours in the preceding 4 weeks and meets specified requirements related to the federal AFDC program.

The bill

This bill would, for purposes of determining a child's deprivation of parental support or care due to the unemployment of their parent, delete the requirements that a parent work less than 100 hours in the preceding 4 weeks and meet the federal AFDC program requirements, and requirements. *The bill* would instead disregard the number of hours that the child's parent works, provided the family does not exceed the applicable gross or net income limits and is otherwise eligible for assistance. To the extent that the bill would expand eligibility for the CalWORKs program, thereby imposing a higher level of service on counties, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law prohibits the payment of assistance CalWORKs aid to an assistance unit if a caretaker relative is participating in a strike, except as specified. *is, on the last day of the month, participating in a strike, unless the strike is necessitated by an imminent health and safety hazard or abnormally dangerous working conditions at the place of employment, or a lockout. Under existing law, if an individual other than a caretaker relative is participating in a strike, subject to the exceptions and their limitations, that individual's needs are not included in determining the amount of aid payable to the assistance unit for the month.*

~~The bill would limit the application of that prohibition to when the prohibition is required by federal law, regulation, or guidance. To the extent this bill imposes additional duties on counties, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.~~

This bill would instead require the payment of CalWORKs aid to an assistance unit if a caretaker relative is participating in a strike or lockout, to the extent permitted by federal law. In the case of participation in a strike by an individual other than a caretaker relative,

the bill would instead require that the individual's needs be included in determining the amount, to the extent permitted by federal law. To the extent that the bill would expand eligibility for the CalWORKs program, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

~~The bill would require the department to conduct a feasibility study regarding expanding CalWORKs, including recommendations. The bill would require the department to report to the Legislature and relevant committees on or before _____. State Department of Social Services to conduct a CalWORKs expansion feasibility study, to include recommendations within the report, and to submit the report to legislative human services committees on or before January 1, 2027.~~

Under the CalWORKs program, certain recipients are required to participate in welfare-to-work activities, which may include, among others, unsubsidized employment, subsidized private *or public* sector employment, ~~subsidized public sector employment,~~ and self-employment.

~~The bill~~

This bill would specify that the hours of self-employment are to be computed based on the number of hours that the participant engaged in self-employment activity, regardless of the income earned by the participant. By increasing the duties of counties in the administration of the CalWORKs program, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

~~Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association of California,~~ *department to develop an allocation methodology to distribute additional funding for expanded subsidized employment programs for CalWORKs recipients, as specified, and requires recipients. Existing law requires the department, in consultation with the County Welfare Directors Association of California, to determine the amount or proportion of funding allocated that may be utilized for operational costs, as specified.*

This bill would also include representatives from labor unions and public benefit advocates within the above-described consultation.

Existing law requires a county that accepts funding from this allocation to, among other things, submit to the department a plan regarding how it intends to utilize the allocated funding, including prioritizing funding and to prioritize subsidized employment placement placements that offer opportunities for participants to obtain skills and experiences in their fields of interest. Existing

This bill would require a participating county to include in its plan, with regard to prioritized subsidized employment, placements with employers that have a joint labor-management letter of support, a signed community benefits agreement, a project labor agreement, or a labor peace agreement. The bill would require the plan to include how the county intends to prevent subsidized employment placements that supplant work that a public employee would have otherwise been hired to do, and to prevent placement with employers that have a history of a bad safety record, or resolved or pending litigation, violations, citations, fines, or penalties relating to any state or federal environmental or labor laws within the last 10 years.

Existing law also requires the department to include specified information for the prior fiscal year regarding the implementation in the CalWORKs Annual Summary to the extent ~~the data is that the data~~ are available and reportable, including the number of CalWORKs participants who participated in subsidized employment for at least 3 months, by county, and a complete list of participating employers, by county.

The bill

~~This bill would require the department to consult with representatives from labor unions, public benefits advocates, and individuals with lived experience in addition to the County Welfare Directors Association of California in developing an allocation methodology to distribute additional funding for expanded employment for CalWORKs recipients. The bill would require a participating county to include in its plan submitted to the department how the county intends to carry out prioritizing subsidized employment placement with employers that have a joint labor-management letter of support, a signed community benefits agreement, a project labor agreement, or a labor peace agreement, and that offer opportunities for participants to obtain skills and experiences in their fields of interest. The bill would require the plan to include how the county intends to prevent subsidized employment placements that supplant work that a public employee would have otherwise been hired to do, and prevent placement with employers that have a history of a bad safety record, or resolved or pending litigation, violations, citations, fines, or penalties relating to any state or federal environmental or labor laws within the last 10 years. The bill would require the department to include in the CalWORKs Annual Summary, to the extent data is that the data are available and reportable, the names of employers where jobs were subsidized and the total amount of the subsidized portion of~~

wages provided to CalWORKs participants working for that employer.

By

By increasing the duties on counties in administering the CalWORKs program, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

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 above provisions.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 11157 of the Welfare and Institutions~~
2 ~~Code, as amended by Section 5 of Chapter 1010 of the Statutes of~~
3 ~~2024, is amended to read:~~

4 ~~11157. (a) Notwithstanding Section 11008, all lump-sum~~
5 ~~income received by an applicant or recipient shall be regarded as~~
6 ~~income in the month received, except nonrecurring lump-sum~~
7 ~~social insurance payments, which shall include social security~~
8 ~~income, railroad retirement benefits, veteran's benefits, workers'~~
9 ~~compensation, and disability insurance.~~

10 ~~(b) Except as otherwise provided in this part, for purposes of~~
11 ~~this chapter and Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200),~~
12 ~~"income" shall be deemed to be the same as applied under the Aid~~
13 ~~to Families with Dependent Children program on August 21, 1996,~~
14 ~~except that the following are exempt from consideration as income:~~

15 ~~(1) Income that is received too infrequently to be reasonably~~
16 ~~anticipated.~~

17 ~~(2) Income from a college work-study program under Title IV~~
18 ~~of the federal Higher Education Act or Article 18 (commencing~~
19 ~~with Section 69950) of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title~~
20 ~~3 of the Education Code or college work-study program, as~~

1 established in the annual Budget Act, for individuals receiving aid
2 under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200).

3 ~~(3) (A) Except as provided for in subparagraph (B), an award~~
4 ~~or scholarship provided by a public or private entity to or on behalf~~
5 ~~of a dependent child based on the child's academic or~~
6 ~~extracurricular achievement or participation in a scholastic,~~
7 ~~educational, or extracurricular competition.~~

8 ~~(4) An in-kind gift that is treated as exempt income in the~~
9 ~~CalFresh program.~~

10 ~~(5) Income that has been paid to a noncustodial parent and is~~
11 ~~treated as exempt income in the CalFresh program.~~

12 ~~(B) For purposes of Chapter 2 (commencing with Section~~
13 ~~11200), an award or scholarship provided by a public or private~~
14 ~~entity to or on behalf of a dependent child.~~

15 ~~(c) (1) For purposes of Chapter 2 (commencing with Section~~
16 ~~11200), any income or stipend paid by the United States Census~~
17 ~~Bureau, a governmental entity, or a nonprofit organization for~~
18 ~~temporary work related to the decennial census shall not be~~
19 ~~considered income.~~

20 ~~(2) Paragraph (1) shall be retroactive and shall apply to any~~
21 ~~income or stipend paid by the United States Census Bureau, a~~
22 ~~governmental entity, or a nonprofit organization for temporary~~
23 ~~work related to the most recent decennial census.~~

24 ~~(3) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the~~
25 ~~Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with~~
26 ~~Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government~~
27 ~~Code), the department may implement, interpret, or make specific~~
28 ~~this subdivision by means of all-county letters or similar~~
29 ~~instructions from the department until regulations are adopted.~~
30 ~~These all-county letters or similar written instructions shall have~~
31 ~~the same force and effect as regulations until the adoption of~~
32 ~~regulations.~~

33 ~~(d) (1) Any federal pandemic unemployment compensation,~~
34 ~~as described under Subchapter 2 (commencing with Section 9021)~~
35 ~~of Chapter 116 of Title 15 of the United States Code, is exempt~~
36 ~~from consideration as income and resources for the purposes of~~
37 ~~determining initial and continued eligibility and grant amount for~~
38 ~~the CalWORKs program.~~

39 ~~(2) The exemption described under paragraph (1) shall remain~~
40 ~~in effect so long as federal pandemic unemployment compensation~~

1 is exempt as income for purposes of establishing eligibility for the
2 CalFresh program (Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 18900)
3 of Part 6), pursuant to the federal Consolidated Appropriations
4 Act of 2021 or any other law.

5 (e) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, for the purposes of this
6 chapter and Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200),
7 guaranteed income payments shall be exempt from consideration
8 as income and resources.

9 (2) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the
10 Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with
11 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
12 Code), the department may implement, interpret, or make specific
13 this subdivision through all-county letters or similar instructions
14 that shall have the same force and effect as regulations until
15 regulations are adopted.

16 (f) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2025, or on
17 the date that the department notifies the Legislature of either of
18 the following, whichever is later, and as of January 1 of the
19 following year, is repealed:

20 (1) The Statewide Automated Welfare System can perform the
21 necessary automation to implement Section 11157, as added by
22 the act that added this subdivision.

23 (2) The California Automated Response and Engagement
24 System (CARES) can perform the necessary automation to
25 implement Section 11157, as added by the act that added this
26 subdivision.

27 **SEC. 2.**

28 *SECTION 1.* Section 11157 of the Welfare and Institutions
29 Code, as added by Section 6 of Chapter 1010 of the Statutes of
30 2024, is amended to read:

31 11157. (a) Notwithstanding Section 11008, all lump-sum
32 income received by an applicant or recipient shall be regarded as
33 income in the month received, except nonrecurring lump-sum
34 social insurance payments, which shall include social security
35 income, railroad retirement benefits, veteran's benefits, workers'
36 compensation, and disability insurance.

37 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this part, for purposes of
38 this chapter and Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200),
39 "income" shall be deemed to be the same as applied under the Aid

1 to Families with Dependent Children program on August 21, 1996,
2 except that the following are exempt from consideration as income:

3 (1) Income that is received too infrequently to be reasonably
4 anticipated.

5 (2) Income from a college work-study program under Title IV
6 of the federal Higher Education Act or Article 18 (commencing
7 with Section 69950) of Chapter 2 of Part 42 of Division 5 of Title
8 3 of the Education Code or college work-study program, as
9 established in the annual Budget Act, for individuals receiving aid
10 under Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200).

11 (3) (A) Except as provided for in subparagraph (B), an award
12 or scholarship provided by a public or private entity to or on behalf
13 of a dependent child based on the child's academic or
14 extracurricular achievement or participation in a scholastic,
15 educational, or extracurricular competition.

16 ~~(4) An in-kind gift that is treated as exempt income in the~~
17 ~~CalFresh program.~~

18 ~~(5) Income that has been paid to a noncustodial parent and is~~
19 ~~treated as exempt income in the CalFresh program.~~

20 (B) For purposes of Chapter 2 (commencing with Section
21 11200), an award or scholarship provided by a public or private
22 entity to or on behalf of a dependent child.

23 *(4) An in-kind gift.*

24 *(5) Income that has been paid to a noncustodial parent.*

25 (c) (1) For purposes of Chapter 2 (commencing with Section
26 11200), any income or stipend paid by the United States Census
27 Bureau, a governmental entity, or a nonprofit organization for
28 temporary work related to the decennial census shall not be
29 considered income.

30 (2) Paragraph (1) shall be retroactive and shall apply to any
31 income or stipend paid by the United States Census Bureau, a
32 governmental entity, or a nonprofit organization for temporary
33 work related to the most recent decennial census.

34 (3) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the
35 Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with
36 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
37 Code), the department may implement, interpret, or make specific
38 this subdivision by means of all-county letters or similar
39 instructions from the department until regulations are adopted.
40 These all-county letters or similar written instructions shall have

1 the same force and effect as regulations until the adoption of
2 regulations.

3 (d) (1) Any federal pandemic unemployment compensation,
4 as described under Subchapter 2 (commencing with Section 9021)
5 of Chapter 116 of Title 15 of the United States Code, is exempt
6 from consideration as income and resources for the purposes of
7 determining initial and continued eligibility and grant amount for
8 the CalWORKs program.

9 (2) The exemption described under paragraph (1) shall remain
10 in effect so long as federal pandemic unemployment compensation
11 is exempt as income for purposes of establishing eligibility for the
12 CalFresh program (Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 18900)
13 of Part 6), pursuant to the federal Consolidated Appropriations
14 Act of 2021 or any other law.

15 (e) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, for the purposes of this
16 chapter and Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 11200),
17 guaranteed income payments shall be exempt from consideration
18 as income and resources.

19 (2) Notwithstanding the rulemaking provisions of the
20 Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with
21 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government
22 Code), the department may implement, interpret, or make specific
23 this subdivision through all-county letters or similar instructions
24 that shall have the same force and effect as regulations until
25 regulations are adopted.

26 (f) For purposes of this chapter and Chapter 2 (commencing
27 with Section 11200), any funds deposited and investment returns
28 accrued in a HOPE trust account established pursuant to Chapter
29 16.1 (commencing with Section 18997.5) of Part 6 shall be exempt
30 from consideration as income and resources pursuant to Section
31 18997.56.

32 (g) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2025, or on
33 the date that the department notifies the Legislature of either of
34 the following, whichever is later:

35 (1) The Statewide Automated Welfare System can perform the
36 necessary automation to implement this section.

37 (2) The California Automated Response and Engagement
38 System (CARES) can perform the necessary automation to
39 implement this section.

1 ~~SEC. 3.~~

2 ~~SEC. 2.~~ Section 11201 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
3 amended to read:

4 11201. For the purposes of this chapter, the following shall
5 apply:

6 (a) “Unemployed parent” means a natural or adoptive parent
7 with whom the child is living.

8 (b) A child for whom a parent is applying for assistance under
9 this chapter shall be considered to be deprived of parental support
10 or care due to the unemployment of their parent or parents
11 regardless of the number of hours that the child’s parent works,
12 provided the family does not exceed the applicable gross or net
13 income limits and is otherwise eligible for assistance.

14 ~~SEC. 4.~~

15 ~~SEC. 3.~~ Section 11250.4 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
16 is amended to read:

17 11250.4. (a) ~~Aid~~ *To the extent permitted by federal law, aid*
18 *under this chapter shall not be payable to an assistance unit if a*
19 *caretaker relative is, on the last day of the month, participating in*
20 *a strike, unless the strike is necessitated by an imminent health*
21 *and safety hazard or abnormally dangerous working conditions at*
22 *the place of employment as determined by the Division of*
23 *Occupational Safety and Health, or a lockout as defined in Section*
24 *1132.8 of the Labor Code. For the purposes of this section, a strike*
25 *necessitated by an imminent health and safety hazard or abnormally*
26 *dangerous working condition shall last only so long as necessitated*
27 *by the imminent hazard or abnormally dangerous working*
28 *condition. If*

29 ~~(b) To the extent permitted by federal law, if~~ an individual other
30 than a caretaker relative is participating in a ~~strike, as defined in~~
31 ~~this section, strike~~ on the last day of the month, ~~subject to the~~
32 ~~exceptions and their limitations set forth in this section,~~ that
33 individual’s needs shall ~~not~~ be included in determining the amount
34 of aid payable to the assistance unit for the month during which
35 the individual is participating in the strike on the last day of that
36 month.

37 ~~(b) This section shall only apply when required by federal law,~~
38 ~~regulation, or guidance.~~

~~SEC. 5.~~

SEC. 4. Section 11267 is added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:

11267. (a) The State Department of Social Services shall conduct a feasibility study regarding expanding CalWORKs. ~~The report shall include recommendations and be reported to the Legislature and relevant committees on or before ____.~~ *CalWORKs expansion feasibility study, including estimated costs and identified necessary statutory changes for expansion. The department shall consult with the County Welfare Directors Association of California as needed. The department shall include recommendations within the report of the study and shall submit the report to the Assembly Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Human Services on or before January 1, 2027.*

(b) A report to be submitted to the Legislature pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, this section shall remain in effect until January 1, ____, 2031, and as of that date is repealed.

~~SEC. 6.~~

SEC. 5. Section 11322.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

11322.6. The welfare-to-work plan developed by the county welfare department and the participant pursuant to this article shall provide for welfare-to-work activities. Welfare-to-work activities may include, but are not limited to, any of the following:

(a) Unsubsidized employment.

(b) Subsidized private sector employment.

(c) Subsidized public sector employment.

(d) Work experience, which means public or private sector work that shall help provide basic job skills, enhance existing job skills in a position related to the participant's experience, or provide a needed community service that will lead to employment. Unpaid work experience shall be limited to 12 months, unless the county welfare department and the recipient agree to extend this period by an amendment to the welfare-to-work plan. The county welfare department shall review the work experience assignment as appropriate and make revisions as necessary to ensure that it

1 continues to be consistent with the participant's plan and effective
2 in preparing the participant to attain employment.

3 (e) On-the-job training.

4 (f) (1) Grant-based on-the-job training, which means public or
5 private sector employment or on-the-job training in which the
6 recipient's cash grant, or a portion thereof, or the aid grant savings
7 resulting from employment, or both, is diverted to the employer
8 as a wage subsidy to partially or wholly offset the payment of
9 wages to the participant, so long as the total amount diverted does
10 not exceed the family's maximum aid payment.

11 (2) A county shall not assign a participant to grant-based
12 on-the-job training unless and until the participant has voluntarily
13 agreed to participate in grant-based on-the-job training by executing
14 a voluntary agreement form, which shall be developed by the
15 department. The agreement shall include, but not be limited to,
16 information on the following:

17 (A) How job termination or another event will not result in loss
18 of the recipient's grant funds, pursuant to department regulations.

19 (B) (i) How to obtain the federal Earned Income Tax Credit
20 (EITC), including the Advance EITC, and increased CalFresh
21 benefits, which may become available due to increased earned
22 income.

23 (ii) This subparagraph shall only become operative when and
24 to the extent that the department determines that it reflects current
25 federal law and Internal Revenue Service regulations.

26 (C) How these financial supports should increase the
27 participant's current income and how increasing earned income
28 should increase the recipient's future social security income.

29 (3) Grant-based on-the-job training shall include community
30 service positions pursuant to Section 11322.9.

31 (4) Any portion of a wage from employment that is funded by
32 the diversion of a recipient's cash grant, or the grant savings from
33 employment pursuant to this subdivision, or both, shall not be
34 exempt under Section 11451.5 from the calculation of the income
35 of the family for purposes of subdivision (a) of Section 11450.

36 (g) Supported work or transitional employment, which means
37 forms of grant-based on-the-job training in which the recipient's
38 cash grant, or a portion thereof, or the aid grant savings from
39 employment, is diverted to an intermediary service provider, to
40 partially or wholly offset the payment of wages to the participant.

1 (h) Workstudy.

2 (i) Self-employment. For purposes of this section, the hours of
3 self-employment shall be computed based on the number of hours
4 *that* the participant engaged in self-employment activity, regardless
5 of the income earned by the participant.

6 (j) Community service.

7 (k) Adult basic education, which shall include reading, writing,
8 arithmetic, high school proficiency, or general educational
9 development certificate of instruction, and English as a second
10 language. Participants under this subdivision shall be referred to
11 appropriate service providers that include, but are not limited to,
12 educational programs operated by school districts or county offices
13 of education that have contracted with the Superintendent of Public
14 Instruction to provide services to participants pursuant to Section
15 33117.5 of the Education Code.

16 (l) Job skills training directly related to employment.

17 (m) Vocational education and training, including, but not limited
18 to, college and community college education, adult education,
19 regional occupational centers, and regional occupational programs.

20 (n) Job search and job readiness assistance, which means
21 providing the recipient with training to learn job seeking and
22 interviewing skills, to understand employer expectations, and learn
23 skills designed to enhance an individual's capacity to move toward
24 self-sufficiency, including financial management education.

25 (o) Education directly related to employment.

26 (p) Satisfactory progress in secondary school or in a course of
27 study leading to a certificate of general educational development,
28 in the case of a recipient who has not completed secondary school
29 or received such a certificate.

30 (q) Mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence
31 services, described in Sections 11325.7 and 11325.8, and Article
32 7.5 (commencing with Section 11495), that are necessary to obtain
33 and retain employment.

34 (r) Other activities necessary to assist an individual in obtaining
35 unsubsidized employment.

36 Assignment to an educational activity identified in subdivisions
37 (k), (m), (o), and (p) is limited to those situations in which the
38 education is needed to become employed.

1 ~~SEC. 7.~~

2 *SEC. 6.* Section 11322.64 of the Welfare and Institutions Code
3 is amended to read:

4 11322.64. (a) (1) The department, in consultation with the
5 County Welfare Directors Association of California, shall develop
6 an allocation methodology to distribute additional funding for
7 expanded subsidized employment programs for CalWORKs
8 recipients, or individuals described in Section 11320.15 who have
9 exceeded the time limits specified in subdivision (a) of Section
10 11454.

11 (2) Funds allocated pursuant to this section may be utilized to
12 cover all expenditures related to the operational costs of the
13 expanded subsidized employment program, including the cost of
14 overseeing the program, developing work sites, and providing
15 training to participants, as well as wage and nonwage costs.

16 (3) The department, in consultation with representatives from
17 labor unions, public benefit advocates, ~~individuals with lived~~
18 ~~experience~~, and the County Welfare Directors Association of
19 California, shall determine the amount or proportion of funding
20 allocated pursuant to this section that may be utilized for
21 operational costs, consistent with the number of employment slots
22 anticipated to be created and the funding provided.

23 (b) Funds allocated for expanded subsidized employment shall
24 be in addition to, and independent of, the county allocations made
25 pursuant to Section 15204.2.

26 (c) (1) A county that accepts additional funding for expanded
27 subsidized employment in accordance with this section shall
28 continue to expend no less than the aggregate amount of funding
29 received by the county pursuant to Section 15204.2 that the county
30 expended on subsidized employment in the 2012–13 fiscal year
31 pursuant to Section 11322.63, as that section read on June 30,
32 2016.

33 (2) This subdivision shall not apply for any fiscal year in which
34 the total CalWORKs caseload is projected by the department to
35 increase by more than 5 percent of the total actual CalWORKs
36 caseload in the 2012–13 fiscal year.

37 (d) (1) Each participating county shall submit to the department,
38 at least once every two years, a plan or an amendment to an existing
39 plan that specifies how the county intends to carry out all of the
40 following:

1 (A) Utilize the funds allocated pursuant to this section.

2 (B) Prioritize subsidized employment placements with
3 employers that have a joint labor-management letter of support, a
4 signed community benefits agreement, a project labor agreement,
5 or a labor peace agreement, and that offer opportunities for
6 participants to obtain skills and experiences in their fields of
7 interest.

8 (C) Prevent subsidized employment placements that supplant
9 work that a public employee would have otherwise been hired to
10 do.

11 (D) Prevent placement with employers that have a history of a
12 bad safety record, or resolved or pending litigation, violations,
13 citations, fines, or penalties relating to any state or federal
14 environmental or labor laws within the last 10 years.

15 (2) If a county has no changes to an existing plan or amendment
16 to report to the department pursuant to paragraph (1), the county
17 shall submit a confirmation of no change to the department.

18 (3) Participating counties shall submit the plans described in
19 paragraph (1) beginning January 1, 2025, or four months after the
20 department issues guidance on how to implement this subdivision,
21 whichever is later.

22 (e) (1) Participation in subsidized employment pursuant to this
23 section shall be limited to a maximum of six months for each
24 participant.

25 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a county may extend
26 participation beyond the ~~six-month~~ *6-month* limitation described
27 in paragraph (1) for up to an additional ~~three~~ *3* months at a time,
28 to a maximum of no more than 12 total months. Extensions may
29 be granted pursuant to this paragraph if the county determines that
30 the additional time will increase the likelihood of either of the
31 following:

32 (A) The participant obtaining unsubsidized employment with
33 the participating employer.

34 (B) The participant obtaining specific skills and experiences
35 relevant for unsubsidized employment in a particular field.

36 (f) A county may continue to provide subsidized employment
37 funded under this section to individuals who become ineligible for
38 CalWORKs benefits in accordance with Section 11323.25.

(g) A county may use existing funds provided under this section to provide employment services for noncustodial parents of children receiving benefits under the CalWORKs program.

(h) Upon application for CalWORKs assistance after a participant's subsidized employment ends, if an assistance unit is otherwise eligible within three calendar months of the date that subsidized employment ended, the income exemption requirements contained in Section 11451.5 and the work requirements contained in subdivision (c) of Section 11201 shall apply. If aid is restored after the expiration of that three-month period, the income exemption requirements contained in Section 11450.12 and the work requirements contained in subdivision (b) of Section 11201 shall apply.

(i) Beginning April 1, 2025, the department shall include all of the following information for the prior fiscal year regarding the implementation of this section in the CalWORKs Annual Summary to the extent ~~the data is that the data are~~ available and reportable:

(1) The number of CalWORKs participants who participated in subsidized employment for at least three months, by county, and a complete list of participating employers, by county.

(2) The number of CalWORKs participants described in paragraph (1) who obtained unsubsidized employment in the quarter following the end of the subsidy, by county, based on wage data and supplemental records available to the Employment Development Department.

(3) The average earnings of the CalWORKs participants described in paragraph (1) in the quarter prior to their participation in the program, to the extent ~~the data is that the data are~~ available. The data required by this paragraph shall be broken down by county and by industry sector. The industry sector data shall also be further broken down by county.

(4) The average earnings of the CalWORKs participants described in paragraph (1) in the quarter following the end of the subsidy, to the extent ~~the data is that the data are~~ available. The data required by this paragraph shall be broken down by county and by industry sector. The industry sector data shall also be further broken down by county.

(5) The names of employers where jobs were subsidized and the total amount of the subsidized portion of wages provided to CalWORKs participants working for that employer.

(j) 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 department may implement, interpret, or make specific the changes made by the act that added this subdivision through all-county letters without taking regulatory action.

~~SEC. 8.~~

SEC. 7. No appropriation pursuant to Section 15200 of the Welfare and Institutions Code shall be made for purposes of implementing this act.

~~SEC. 9.~~

SEC. 8. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

CORRECTIONS:

Heading—Line 1.

Digest—Line 1.

REVISIONS:

Heading—Line 1.