

AB 60 (Santiago) Continuity of Child Care

Bill Summary

AB 60 simplifies child care enrollment by providing technological upgrades to the enrollment process, so that child care contractors can carry out their duty to seamlessly transition families between the various stages of CalWORKs child care.

Existing Law

The Budget Act of 2017 established at least 12 months of continuous affordable child care for eligible families. The Budget Act also eliminated eligibility reporting requirements for families during that 12-month period, unless the family's adjusted monthly income exceeds 85% of the state median income.¹ This change in law provides stability for families who are eligible for child care and eliminated unnecessary burdensome paperwork requirements that caused families to wrongfully lose their care. But families are still falling through the cracks as they transfer through the CalWORKs child care stages.

Provisions that ensure families receive continuity of care without disruption of services are also found in other sections of California's child care laws. In order to guarantee that no family has their child care services interrupted or terminated due to the transfer process, existing legal authority provides that CalWORKs Stage 1 child care services shall not be discontinued for eligible families until their enrollment in Stage 2 or Stage 3 is confirmed.² California Welfare and Institutions Code § 11323.4 (f) further requires county welfare departments and child care contractors to share data for the administration of CalWORKs Stages 1, 2 and 3 child care and other child care programs.³ Lastly,

California Education Code § 8358.5 offers that government and private agencies administering affordable child care must share the necessary information to administer state and CalWORKs child care programs.

Several counties have already adopted the technological solution AB 60 offers.

Background

Continuity of care creates the stable conditions children need for healthy development and school-readiness. Families are thrown into crisis when they lose their child care; without child care, parents cannot work, make rent, pay bills, or buy basic necessities. This level of stress is toxic on children and has lasting effects.

While existing law requires that families seamlessly transition between the three stages of CalWORKs child care, many families mistakenly lose their care due to outdated enrollment systems. These working families who should be continuing to receive CalWORKs child care are instead unnecessarily waiting in line for non-CalWORKs child care that has very limited availability. These families are forced to forego work, limit their work hours, or struggle to pay for child care they cannot afford.

Parents ask for a technical solution to better ensure they do not erroneously lose their child care during the CalWORKs child care transfer process.

Need for AB 60

AB 60 helps child care contractors fulfill their duty to seamlessly transfer families through the CalWORKs child care stages by requiring counties to share the necessary data to transfer eligible families

¹ Cal. Educ. Code § 8263 (h).

² Cal. Manual Policy and Procedures § 47-301.5.

³ See also Cal. Manual Policy and Procedures §§ 47-301.4 and .41.

through a simplified, upgraded technological system.

Specifically, AB 60 will:

- Require counties to provide local contractors with electronic, limited “read-only” access to a single summary page with the needed data to seamlessly transfer families through CalWORKs stages. The County level Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS) database will be used to share this information.⁴
- Allow County Welfare Departments to train staff on security protocols and how to safeguard confidential individual family information.
- Require that counties receive confirmation of the eligible family’s enrollment in Stage 2 or Stage 3 before terminating Stage 1 child care services, which is in accordance with current law.

Support

Child Care Law Center (Co-sponsor)

Parent Voices (Co-sponsor)

For More Information

Jaspreet Johl

Assembly Member Miguel Santiago

916.319.2053 | jaspreet.johl@asm.ca.gov

⁴ The nine data elements necessary for transfer are listed at Cal.Code Regs., title 5, §§ 18409 & 18409.5. They include: (1) parent name, address, telephone number; (2) names and dates of birth for all children; (3) number of hours of child care needed; (4) names of other family

members in household; (5) reason for needing child care; (6) family size and monthly income; (7) employment or training information; (8) rate of payment; and (9) identifying information and type of child care provider.