



## AB 607

### CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (CalHVP) Expansion

*Status: Assembly Human Services*

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#### **BILL SUMMARY**

The bill makes statutory changes to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), CalWORKs Home Visiting Program (HVP) to allow participants in a voluntary evidence-based home visiting program to participate through the model's recommended duration.

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#### **CURRENT LAW**

Under existing law, the CalHVP can only be offered to pregnant individuals and families with a child under 24 months of age. Further, existing law restricts state funding for participation until the child reaches 24 months or their second birthday, whichever is later.

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#### **BACKGROUND**

Voluntary evidence-based home visiting programs (HVPs) match trained professionals with expecting and new parents to help them with critical early development for their children. Research shows that participation in a HVP has immense benefits to the children and their families, such as better maternal and infant health, reduced emergency room visits, and increased safety practices. Long term. Research shows, for children who participate

through the recommended duration have improved language and cognitive development, improved math and reading scores, reduced absenteeism, and decreased school suspensions. For every \$1 invested in HVPs, communities receive a benefit of up to \$5.70 in savings in child welfare, K-12 education, and community safety.<sup>1</sup>

Under existing law, the CalWORKs HVP can only be offered to pregnant individuals and families with a child under 24 months of age. Those families may receive CalWORKs HVP services for 24 months or until the child's second birthday, whichever is later. Both requirements are not in alignment with the enrollment and duration of all the evidenced-based programs offered in the CalWORKs HVP.

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#### **SOLUTION**

AB 607 rectifies misalignment with best practices by extending the enrollment timeframe from a child under 24 months of age to a child under 36 months of age and allows CalWORKs HVP voluntary participants to complete the full duration of a chosen model. This would align the CalWORKs HVP with current practices that follow a model's fidelity and move in stride with the home visiting programs

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<sup>1</sup> Home Visiting: Improving Outcomes for Children.  
<https://www.ncsl.org/human-services/home-visitingimproving-outcomes-for-children>

offered under CDPH. These changes will provide continuity of HVP services to participating CalWORKs families and help to maximize the health and developmental benefits of the program for those families.

**SUPPORT**

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County Welfare Directors Association of California  
(Co-sponsor)  
Children Now (Co-sponsor)

**CONTACT**

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