

Senate Bill 778

Expanding Migrant Childcare and Development Programs



Monique Limón

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 21

THIS BILL

SB 778 modifies the income and certification allowance for the purpose of expanding access to the Migrant Childcare and Development Programs (CMIG) for agricultural working families.

BACKGROUND

Over 70% of agricultural families in the US experienced childcare challenges within the last 5 years.¹ The lack of access to childcare has been a key factor for lost wages for agricultural workers.

The CMIG program, under the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), provides working families in agriculture with access to childcare and development services if they meet specific criteria. This eligibility criteria requires an applying family or household to have at least 50% of their total income come from agricultural work.

In addition, children from newborns to 12-year-olds and older children with special needs can receive care at CMIG centers. These programs also provide children with meals and snacks, parent education, referrals to health and social services for agricultural families, and staff development opportunities to employees.²

While CMIG programs have been beneficial to families, the current income requirement limits access to multi-generational families with mixed-incomes. In 2019, 96% of agricultural working families in the US received income from off-farm sources, including pensions and wages, indicating the need for these families to diversify income sources. Furthermore, 73% of farmworker households earn less than the 200% poverty level, removing their ability to qualify for various programs.

As childcare needs continue to grow in the state, it is imperative for California to promote childcare access for agricultural working families. Unlike other childcare programs administered by the State, CMIG does not statutorily allow for self-certification.

PURPOSE

SB 778 aims to support agricultural working families by expanding access to CMIG. Specifically, this bill redefines a “migrant agricultural worker family” under California law to a family that includes at least one individual that earns at least 40% from their income from fishing or agricultural-related work, for the purpose of childcare programs.

In addition, SB 778 authorizes eligible individuals to provide any necessary documentation to establish the income eligibility with CDSS.

SUPPORT

Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (Sponsor)
California Citrus Mutual
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
California Strawberry Commission
California Walnut Commission
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Early Edge California
EveryChild California
Firt 5 California
Nisei Farmers League
Western Tree Nut Association

OPPOSITION

None on File

¹ [Childcare in Agriculture](#)

² [Child Care and Development Programs](#)

Senate Bill 778

Expanding Migrant Childcare and
Development Programs



Monique Limón

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 21

STAFF CONTACT

Eileen Amador, Legislative Aide

Eileen.Amador@sen.ca.gov

O: 916.651.4021

