

**Riverside Community College District
Workforce Preparation**

CalWORKs Program

Fact Sheet

Overview

Workforce Preparation offers the CalWORKs Program, funded through the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges. CalWORKs is designed to promote self-sufficiency through employment and education. The population that is eligible to receive services via CalWORKs is TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) recipients with minor children. Welfare recipients face a five-year lifetime limit, and CalWORKs is one of the ways California is meeting the challenge of welfare reform.

CalWORKs Program

Current and prospective RCC students who meet the criteria for eligibility may receive services through the CalWORKs Program. Eligible CalWORKs students usually begin by attending an orientation, where they are introduced to RCC, Workforce Preparation, and given a skills assessment. Each CalWORKs student then is given the opportunity to meet with a CalWORKs Counselor, develop an educational plan, and receive supportive services to maximize their success at RCC and in the workplace. Students are referred to and assisted with other resources on campus as necessary, including Financial Aid, Disabled Student Programs & Services, Admissions, etc.

CalWORKs students receive support services such as priority registration, intensive case management, job placement, counseling, parenting and life skills workshops, career advisement, and other services that promote success. Many current CalWORKs students could not get the education they need to break the cycle of poverty and dependency without such assistance. The Workforce Preparation staff continues to seek additional CalWORKs-eligible students so that support services can be provided to ensure their success in school and the workplace. To date, 3,000 students have participated in the CalWORKs Program and received support services with new CalWORKs students enrolling each week.

Students may enroll in courses that will help them obtain basic skills, explore career options, and prepare for employment. Short-term occupational programs have been developed for jobs that are in high demand. These short-term programs are linked to other occupational programs in a given industry cluster to ensure that students can continue to acquire valuable skills, move up the career ladder, and earn a higher salary.

If you would like to know more about the CalWORKs Program, please call the Workforce Preparation staff at (951) 222-8648.