

What do families and staff say about Linkages?

“My Linkages worker helped me look for childcare, food stamps for the girls, Medi-Cal. It was a complete service - everything. I felt like someone really cared for me and I felt like maybe I could do this.”

Parent

“Our ultimate goal is to help the families... because we know that outcomes for children are not good when they grow up in foster care.”

Child Welfare Staff, Los Angeles County



“Our work participation rate is so important, so when you have a family that may not have been participating in the Welfare to Work program – and they are now able to participate – that helps to stop or prevent a sanction. Our numbers go up.”

CalWORKs Staff, Stanislaus County

Learn More!

Linkages is a dynamic and effective approach to better serving children and families. Learn more about how you can help families in your community!

Visit www.cfpic.org for online access to videos and communication materials:

- Planning and Implementation Tools and Templates
- Collaboration Checklist – What Directors, Managers and Staff Can Do to Promote Collaboration.
- Videos, PowerPoint Presentations and Webinars – About Linkages and the importance of program collaboration for families.
- Much more!



Visit linkages.cfpic.org for more information!



Linkages is a project of the Child and Family Policy Institute of California and is funded by the California Department of Social Services.



What is Linkages 2.0?

Building on years of successful teamwork between CalWORKs and Child Welfare, Linkages 2.0 brings the strength of collaboration to child maltreatment prevention. Seeking to interrupt the increased family stress and risk for maltreatment that comes with poverty, Linkages 2.0 supports county efforts to provide primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention via concrete supports and family strengthening services for CalWORKs families and coordinated services for families mutually served by CalWORKs and Child Welfare.

Linkages matters!

Child Welfare Services and CalWORKs serve many of the same families, yet too often there is limited coordination, communication or resource sharing between the two programs. Parents face the complexity of negotiating multiple systems with conflicting requirements and timeframes – while counties lose the opportunity to leverage resources and provide needed supports to better serve families.

Linkages can help!

Counties across California are coming together to implement strategies and activities to improve collaboration between CalWORKs, Child Welfare Services, and communities – collaboration that improves services as well as the program bottom line.

Children and families benefit when programs work together.



Linkages is effective!

Linkages helps families become self-sufficient and give children safe, stable lives.

Linkages is efficient!

Linkages leverages resources by enabling programs to use strengths and resources in ways that better serve families. Linkages reduces duplication by streamlining services and reducing service referrals. Linkages creates a team approach by providing more people to solve problems!

Linkages is essential!

Linkages increases employment, builds family resilience and helps to reduce child maltreatment.

Children and families do better when they receive the support they need as early as possible, and programs benefit when they can meet important targets and goals.

Linkages Benefits Everyone!

- Promotes employment and prevents CalWORKs sanctions.
- Provides Child Welfare expertise to help address families' multiple needs.
- Provides additional resources for helping families and improving outcomes.
- Helps reduce poverty and stressors contributing to child maltreatment.
- Coordinates and streamlines services.
- Creates a team approach to helping families.

Linkages strategies support best practices!

- Coordinated case planning.
- Including CalWORKs staff at Child and Family Team meetings facilitated by Child Welfare.
- Co-locating CalWORKs and Child Welfare staff.
- Creating Linkages Teams to support mutual families.
- Leveraging resources from Child Welfare, CalWORKs and the community to meet family needs.
- Joint Case Reviews.
- Joint Fiscal Plans.
- Joint and Cross Trainings.

