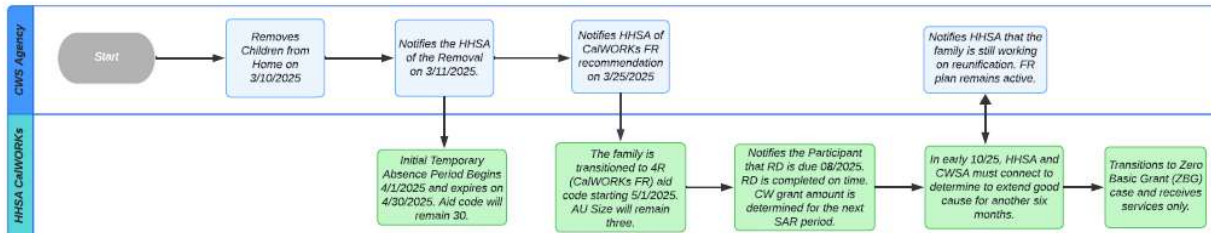


1. How is the CWFR cash aid approval period determined?

The CalWORKs Family Reunification (FR) cash aid period is determined when the County Welfare Services (CWS) Agency recommends services and cash aid to the County Health and Human Services (HHSA) agency. For example, When the CWS agency reports to the County HHSA that a child has been removed and placed in out of home care, the child is not immediately discontinued from the case. As highlighted in ACL 23-94 and ACL 25-05, the child is to remain temporarily absent for a full calendar month giving the CWS agency time to recommend FR services and CalWORKs cash aid or not. If the recommendation from the CWS Agency is for the family to receive FR services and cash aid, the cash aid begins the month following the temporary absence period. If there is no recommendation given or reunification is not possible for the family per CWS recommendation, the case will discontinue at the end of the 30-day temporary absence period.

Please review the flow charts provided on pages 17 and 18 of [ACL 25-05](#) as well as the one below:



2. Can social workers retract their recommendation for CWFR cash aid?

CalWORKs:

Yes. If a parent is not in compliance with their CWS case plan, the social worker can amend the case plan and remove FR services and CalWORKs cash aid from the FR plan. Once the County HHSA is notified of this change, the CalWORKs case will be discontinued, and a notice of action must be sent.

3. Would DFCS continue to provide childcare assistance for children temporarily out of the home?

CalWORKs:

Yes, childcare can still be provided for children who are temporarily out of the home and FR services and CalWORKs cash aid are being recommended by the CWS agency. More information will be forthcoming in a future Child Care Bulletin.

4. 1. We have been instructed to only give 6 months of CalWORKs FR from the date of removal (not counting the temporary absence period). It appears that instruction has been given to allow a full 6 months once the plan is signed. These two dates are different, can you elaborate on this?

CalWORKs:

As mentioned in ACL 23-94 and ACL 25-05, a CWS plan does not need to be finalized, or a court order does not need to be finalized, in order for FR services and CalWORKs cash aid to begin for a family receiving CalWORKs. At this time, cash aid for families in FR is limited to six full months, not including the temporary absence period. As a reminder, CalWORKs cash aid and FR services must be recommended by the CWS to give the six months of CalWORKs cash aid, and that date may differ from the date of removal. Please see the visual above in question 1 for more clarity.

5. When aided out of the county at time of removal which county would be responsible for AB 135 aid? Would an ICT be done in the scenario or does the case stay with the other county?

CalWORKs:

The county of responsibility would follow current CalWORKs residency and ICT rules for families receiving cash aid and FR services as highlighted in [ACL 17-58](#). More information will be forthcoming regarding ICT rules and FR services.

6. What Aid is available for non-needy caretakers?

Per [ACL 25-05](#), Relative caregivers of children who have been removed from their home and whose parent(s) are receiving FR services and cash aid can apply for Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) or the Approved Relative Caregiver Alternative (ARC) Program to receive support for the children. The AFDC-FC program provides cash and Medi-Cal benefits for children placed into foster care. ARC provides payments to a relative caregiver when the relative caregiver or child has been denied federal foster care funding. The HHSA and CWS agencies are encouraged to inform families about the AFDC-FC and ARC programs when appropriate.

7. If additional time is needed to reunify, can a good cause extension be given up to the 18-month review hearing?

CalWORKs:

Per [ACL 25-05](#), if a family receiving FR has exhausted their six months of CalWORKs cash aid and they receive a good cause exemption, they will be transitioned to a zero-basic grant (ZBG) case and remain eligible for FR services only. CalWORKs cash aid for families in FR is limited to six full months at this time.

8. What are counties doing if they do not receive a case plan recommending cash by the end of the temporary absence period?

As highlighted in [ACL 23-94](#) and [ACL 25-05](#), if the CWS agency does not recommend FR for the family by the end of the temporary absence period, the case must discontinue at the end of the temporary absence period. If a court implements a CWS FR plan after the family has been discontinued from CalWORKs, the family's CalWORKs must be restored, but a retroactive payment will not be issued if the CalWORKs cash aid and FR services are implemented retroactively by the court. In these situations, the six months of CalWORKs cash aid for families in FR must begin upon the date the family's CalWORKs benefits are restored.

Homeless Assistance:

1. Homeless assistance: is a family with active CW FR eligible for Permanent Homeless Assistance (PHA)?

CalWORKs:

CalWORKs families who are participating in FR are not eligible for Permanent Homeless Assistance (PHA). After the children are returned to the home and are added back into the CalWORKs assistance unit, the county may consider offering PHA, as appropriate per [ACL 18-71](#).

2. Can FR-THA be issued for a client while receiving the FR cash aid? Does the FR-THA count towards the standard THA policy?

CalWORKs:

CalWORKs families who are participating in FR are eligible for Temporary homeless assistance as outlined in [ACL 18-71](#).

See scenarios:

1. Other Program Assistance: Removal date: 12/11/24, CalWORKs term: 12/31/24. If the client is not eligible for GAIN FR because CWS will not recommend FR. However, they have the Hearing in February. If the judge orders the FR, CWS must open it and WTW requests the FR. Client is already getting GR. If CWS opens the FR in February and recommends the cash. What will happen?

CalWORKs:

If the parent was granted FR services during their hearing, the family's CalWORKs must be restored, but a retroactive payment will not be issued if the CalWORKs cash aid and FR services are implemented retroactively by the court. In these situations, the six months of CalWORKs cash aid must begin upon the date the family's CalWORKs benefits are restored.

2. Scenario: MO and 3 kids (1 SSI, 2 CalWORKs) 2 CalWORKs kids removed; SSI child remains in home/AU with MO. Is MO eligible for FR? Per AB 429, all kids must be removed. This is a partial removal case. Under old rules, MO does not qualify for FR services because she keeps her CalWORKs. Under new rules, does MO qualify for FR?

CalWORKs:

Per [ACL 25-05](#), question 13, the family would be eligible for FR if the CWS agency recommends FR services and CalWORKs cash aid in the FR plan because all the CalWORKs-eligible children were removed from the home. In accordance with MPP 82-832.1, a child receiving SSI/SSP is excluded from the grant calculation.

3. County of responsibility: CalWORKs case is active in County A and children are removed and placed with a caretaker in County B and County B is handling the child welfare case while the parent plans on remaining and continuing to live in County A. Which county is responsible for granting CW FR? It seems it should follow the CalWORKs case and have County A grant the CW FR regardless of where the child welfare case is taking place, confirmation is requested for the county of responsibility.

CalWORKs:

County A is still responsible for the authorizing of FR services and cash aid as the parent is still residing in county A.

4. **ICT:** Should CalWORKs Family Reunification be ICT'd to another county if the family moves to another county while CW FR is active? Are there considerations that need to be taken into account by the receiving county before picking up the ICT for the CW FR, such as confirming the status of the CWS case to clarify if family reunification is still in progress and if the plan still contains cash aid as a provision to reunification while in the new county? How should the WTW or services piece be handled by the receiving county if the receiving county has a different process for WTW/services while in CW FR compared to the sending county?

CalWORKs:

Current ICT rules still apply for CalWORKs FR families. The sending county must communicate with the receiving county regarding the status of the family's CWS reunification plan and that the CWS agency is still recommending cash aid and services for the family. In addition, the sending county must share details related to the FR services being received currently so that the receiving county can align with those activities once the case is approved. It is also important to share how many months the family has received CalWORKs cash aid while in FR so that way, the receiving county knows how many months the family is still eligible for. More information regarding ICT and CalWORKs FR will be forth coming.

5. Mixed household eligibility. Ex. Two parent HH with 2 mutual children. Three children are in the HH, all were removed, however only one was receiving cash aid as the other two had no deprivation.

CalWORKs:

This family would still be eligible for CalWORKs cash aid and FR services if all other conditions for CalWORKs FR eligibility are met since all the eligible children receiving CalWORKs were removed. The status of the non-aided children does not impact the family's eligibility for FR services and CalWORKs cash aid.

6. Scenario: Cal-Learn Teen [nested in senior parent case (Child Only)] whose baby has been removed by CWS was referred for FR. CL Teen (18yo) has moved out of the home of the senior parent. Is the Teen still eligible for CL and FR services? **The concern is, is the teen still eligible for Cal-Learn/FR if they move out of the senior parent's home (AU) and have not established their own case? The senior parent is not required to inform CalWORKs of the change in AU until her next report is due.

CalWORKs:

With the implementation of AB 135, the rules for FR services as applied through AB 429 remain the same. A Cal-Learn teen would remain eligible to Cal-Learn services, along with any other supportive services or activities included as part of their Cal-Learn FR case plan. If the teen is currently referred to FR, the teen can receive FR services and CalWORKs cash aid on their own case. [ACL 11-04](#), page 10, question 24, does give guidance for Cal-Learn participants. The senior parent does not have to report the teen out of the home until the next reporting period, however If the teen applies for aid on their own case and is approved they will be removed from the Senior parents' case as they are no longer in the home.

7. 2Parent HH Separated due to CWS involvement: We have a case where the mother was asked to leave the home, and the father is the one that is receiving CalWORKs for the children in the FR period. Mom, however, is eligible for FR services, a. How is CW FR Cash Aid for 1 parent, and CW FR Services for the other parent issued on the same case? b. Does mom now need her own case? c. Is she temporarily out of the home and allowed to remain on the CW Case for the WTW Services to be issued?

CalWORKs:

In this situation, both parents would need to remain on the same case in order to receive FR services and CalWORKs cash aid. CalSAWS does not have the functionality to give cash aid to one parent and services only to the other parent. If the mother intends to return to the home, she is considered temporarily absent and can still be aided in the CalWORKs FR case. If the mother does not intend to return home, she would be removed from the assistance unit at the next reporting period (SAR 7/RD).