

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 16

SUBJECT: APPROVE THE CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO KIDS OUTCOMES AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Title 42, Chapter 7, Subchapter IV, Part A of the United States Code establishes the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families entitlement program known in California as the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program. California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provides oversight of the CalWORKs program, and all 58 counties administer the program on behalf of the State, within their respective jurisdictions. CalWORKs provides a wide range of services to some of the most vulnerable families living on lower incomes in San Diego County. In addition to providing essential cash, nutrition and medical benefits to families, CalWORKs also incorporates a Welfare to Work (WTW) (also known as Employment Services (ES)) component that provides additional supportive services including childcare, transportation, and housing services as required by the California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11523. The purpose of participating in WTW activities is for families to gain the proper support, resources, job skills, training, and education to obtain full-time employment that leads to self-sufficiency.

As a proactive measure, the State Legislature established the CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review system (Cal-OAR) in 2017, to identify an improved, more comprehensive approach to measuring outcomes and successes of the CalWORKs program. The Cal-OAR initiative was established to facilitate a local accountability system that fosters continuous quality improvement. Cal-OAR requires monitoring and reporting of specific data measures, including supportive service utilization and post-aid metrics, to determine the effectiveness of the various WTW activities in which participants engage.

The Cal-OAR consists of three main components: performance indicators, San Diego County's CalWORKs self-assessment process, and a county's CalWORKs system improvement plan. Through the State required Cal-OAR process, all California counties completed a CalWORKs self-assessment, including recipient and community feedback, and developed an improvement plan that focuses on improving performance indicators. Once the improvement plan is developed, each county is required to implement and evaluate strategies for the performance indicators identified. A progress report is then created to help inform updates to the selected performance indicators and measures. In April 2023, the County of San Diego completed a self-assessment that was approved by CDSS. Subsequently, the County developed the improvement plan which was pre-approved by CDSS in September 2023.

Today's action requests the San Diego County Board of Supervisors approve the County of San Diego California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) System Improvement Plan and authorize the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to sign the CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review Report Signature Sheet and execute any amendments thereto that do not materially impact or alter its substance.

RECOMMENDATION

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Approve the County of San Diego California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) System Improvement Plan (San Diego County Cal-SIP Plan) and authorize the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to sign the CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review (Cal-OAR) Report Signature Sheet and execute any amendments thereto that do not materially impact or alter its substance.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Outcomes and Accountability Review system initiative will help make a positive impact on equity by encouraging and stimulating economic opportunities for the neediest families in San Diego County. From 2018 to 2022, 5.4% of San Diego County CalWORKs recipients fell below the 50% threshold of the ratio of income to poverty level as based on the American Community Survey 5-year estimate. Race and ethnicity data, as gathered by the California Department of Social Services in 2022, indicates that San Diego County CalWORKs caseloads consisted of 2.7% Asian, 14.8% Black, 34.2% Hispanic or Latino, 48% white and 0.4% other. The CalWORKs program is designed to remove barriers to expanding opportunities in traditionally underserved communities especially residents living on lower incomes. The job skills, training, and job placements gained through the Welfare to Work program can help advance opportunities for economic growth and lead residents to self-sufficiency while also stimulating the local economy which benefits the community.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Outcomes and Accountability Review initiative helps support the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #4, to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region in terms of Health and Well-being and Economy by providing programs, services, and resources to the County's most vulnerable residents experiencing deep poverty. Obtaining self-sufficiency through proper job training and education helps advance the economic impact throughout San Diego County, by aligning available resources with essential services that maintain fiscal stability and ensure longevity. During the CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review self-assessment process, in alignment with the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal #1 to engage the community and obtain stakeholder feedback, input was gathered from recipients and community members. In addition, in alignment with the County's Sustainability Goal #2, to provide just and equitable access to County services, the CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review system initiative facilitates the creation of policies to reduce and eliminate poverty and promote economic sustainability for all County residents.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Vargas, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond
ABSENT: Anderson

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter