



STATE FUNDED SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

CDR administers several State funded subsidized child care programs in Ventura County. The programs include, the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Program, which are funded by both the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the California Department of Education, Early Care & Education Support Division (CDE/EESD), depending upon the “stage” of public assistance or transition the family is in. Stage 1 Child Care services are funded by the CDSS for families currently receiving public assistance, while Stages 2 and 3 are funded by the CDE/EESD. CDR administers the CalWORKs Stage 1 program through a contract received from the County of Ventura’s Human Services Agency (HSA). The CalWORKs Stage 1 program currently serves children zero to thirteen years old. In addition, CDR administers the CalWORKs Stage 2 and Stage 3 programs.

Families receiving Stage 2 child care services are either (1) receiving a cash public assistance payment (and are deemed “stabilized”) or (2) in a two-year transitional period after leaving cash assistance. Child care for this population is an entitlement for twenty-four months after cash aid ends under current law. If a family is receiving Stage 3 child care services, they have exhausted their two-year Stage 2 entitlement. The availability of Stage 3 is discretionary and contingent upon the amount of funding appropriated for the program in the annual State Budget Act.

CDR also administers the Alternative Payment (AP) Program which reimburses some or most of the child care costs for parents with children zero to thirteen years of age. Another AP program administered by CDR is the Infant/Toddler Program (ITP). This program reimburses some or most of the child care costs for parents of children zero to five years of age. Children remain eligible until their fifth (5th) birthday. Provider selection by the parent is made from CDR’s Family Child Care Education Network (FCCEN). FCCEN ensures high quality family child care home providers by setting higher standards than those required by the Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division.

Each subsidized child care program has specific requirements indicated in Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations and in the programs’ Funding Terms and Conditions. The State of California mandates that CDR determine the parent(s) eligibility and need for these subsidized programs and monitor the case, while the parent is enrolled in a program. Staff will assist parents in determining their eligibility

and need status. In addition, staff informs parents of the child care options available to them. Families must establish eligibility and need for one of the subsidized child care programs before children can be certified for services. The County of Ventura's, Human Services Agency, certifies eligibility and need for the CalWORKs Stage 1 clients that are referred to CDR for subsidized child care services.

Program requirements ensure that parents have the maximum amount of choice in the selection of child care for their children. Full or part-time child care costs will be paid for children enrolled in the various programs while the parent(s) are participating in their approved activity. Monthly payments are made directly to child care providers who are in the business of performing that service and who enter into a contractual arrangement with CDR.