Starting January 2013, there will be new rules for the CalWORKs program.

**Earned income deduction:** the deduction will increase as of 10/1/2013. The first $225 of disability or earned income will not count. Then half of the remaining earned income will not count. (See “CalWORKs: How Much Should I Get” flyer.)

**New Young Child Exemption:** One adult per aided family can be excused from doing welfare-to-work if caring for a child under 2 years old. This exemption is available only once in the adult’s lifetime after 1/1/2013. This time does not count against the “time on aid.”

- If you are exempted for caring for a child between 12 and 23 months old or two children under 6 before 1/1/2013, this exemption continues until you are called in to be “reengaged” in welfare-to-work as a mandatory participant (When reengaged, your 24 months of the full welfare-to-work activities will start. See below.)
- If you have used the one-time child under 2 exemption, you can still be exempt for caring for a child 3-12 months old. The length of time you are exempt will depend on your county’s policy. The time will count against the 48 months time limit, though.

**Welfare-to-work hours**

- 20 hours: Single adults with children under 6
- 30 hours: Single adults with no children under 6
- 35 hours: two parent families, unless one is disabled. (If one parent is disabled, this counts as a 1 parent family for the hours requirement.)

**Welfare-to-work activities**

People who are not exempt (excused) from welfare-to-work will still get 48 months of aid. However, starting 1/1/2013, the full range of welfare-to-work activities will be limited to 24 months. (In other words, you get whatever you are assessed as needing to reach self-sufficiency. After January, the “core” hour requirement ends for anyone in this 24 months “CalWORKs activity period.”) There will be a process to be considered for an extension of time. After this 24 month period (plus any extensions), to keep getting CalWORKs aid, the adult must do the federally countable activities. (This is generally work, with limited hours available for training.)

- People already on CalWORKs before 1/1/2013 will have up to 24 months, or whatever time is left on their 48 month clock, to finish their educational activities in their welfare-to-work plan. If you finish your educational activities and have time left on your 48 months limit, you must do federal activities (generally work) in order to keep getting aid. The months are in total, and do not have to be all in a row.
- Certain months don’t count against the 24 months of activities. They may count against the 48 month limit, though. These are 1) if you are developing your work plan; 2) have good cause for not participating; 3) are on sanction; or 4) you are meeting the federal rules for work participation (for single adult families, this means doing 20 hours of work or the first 12 months of vocational education).