

# Community Work Experience Program

## What is CWEX?

CWEX is a non-salaried Welfare-to-Work (WTW) activity that provides CalWORKs recipients with the chance to gain the skills, experience, training, knowledge and work habits necessary to get and keep a job.

## What is CalWORKs?

The California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program is a time-limited program that provides financial assistance to eligible needy families. This is California's version of the Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program.

## What is the purpose of CWEX placements?

The purpose is to provide CWEX participants with on the job training to improve skills and provide current job experience. The goal is for the individual to gain the skills that will lead to full time paid employment. Participants also meet CalWORKs WTW requirements through their CWEX placements.

## How long does a CWEX placement last?

A CWEX placement is intended to be short term and lasts up to six (6) months.

## How many hours may a CWEX participant work?

Hours vary according to the participant's WTW Plan. The average is from 20 to 30 hours a week.

## Are there any wages or costs involved?

No. Participants will continue to receive their monthly CalWORKs grant while in training, and CalWORKs may pay their child care and transportation costs, but there are no hourly wages paid for these jobs.

## Are there any restrictions on the types of work CWEX participants may perform in their placement?

Employers must be in compliance with federal and state workplace requirements. We also do not let CWEX participants drive as part of their job duties.

## What about Worker's Compensation?

All CWEX participants are covered by Worker's Compensation.

## What can I expect as a CWEX participant?

You will first attend an orientation session, after which you will meet with a CWEX Bureau Coordinator. Your Coordinator will help you pick the right site for you, after which you will attend an interview with the site supervisor. Once you both decide the job is the right match for you, you will be given a work schedule, and will work the job just like any other job.

## How do I learn more?

Contact your case-carrying worker. They will help determine if you are eligible for CWEX, and can refer you to the program.

