

SB-1396

Home Visiting Program



Prepared by the
ELDERLY CARE
EVERYWHERE POLICY
TEAM



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Largest youth lobbying group for senior citizens and senior care in California.

Executive Summary

SB 1396, introduced by Senator Alvarado-Gil during the 2023-2024 Regular Session of the California Legislature, amends Section 11330.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program and its Home Visiting Program. This bill extends the provisions of the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program to apply to children from birth up to their fifth birthday and allows voluntary participants to continue in the program even if they no longer meet the CalWORKs income, eligibility, or need criteria, for up to an additional 12 months.

The CalWORKs Home Visiting Program is designed to support positive health, development, and well-being outcomes for pregnant and parenting people, families, and infants born into poverty. It provides high-quality, evidence-based, culturally competent services for at least 24 months and up to the child's fifth birthday. The program aims to expand future educational, economic, and financial opportunities, improving the likelihood that participants will exit poverty.

SB 1396 ensures that more children and families can benefit from the program's comprehensive support services. By extending the age eligibility and duration of participation, the bill addresses the critical needs of at-risk families, enhancing the stability and development of children in their formative years. Additionally, it promotes continuity of care, ensuring that families receive consistent and reliable support even if their financial circumstances change.

This legislative change is significant as it provides a longer period of assistance to vulnerable families, which is crucial for their overall development and well-being. Importantly, the extended support also benefits senior citizens who often act as primary caregivers in households. By relieving some of the care duties with professional support services, seniors can experience reduced physical and emotional stress, contributing to improved quality of life and well-being. This targeted support for families thereby extends to enhance the lives of seniors, offering them relief and the ability to engage more fully in their communities and personal interests.



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Our Position

Senate Bill 1396 (SB 1396), introduced by Senator Alvarado-Gil during the 2023-2024 Regular Session of the California Legislature, proposes a significant expansion of the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program. This bill aims to extend the age range for services from birth up to a child's fifth birthday and allows families to continue in the program for up to an additional 12 months, even if they no longer meet the CalWORKs income, eligibility, or need criteria.

Elderly Care Everywhere strongly supports SB 1396 because it aligns with our mission to advocate for the health, welfare, and happiness of seniors, particularly those who play a vital role as caregivers. By extending the reach and duration of support offered through the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program, this bill ensures that more children and their families, especially those in underserved communities, receive continuous and comprehensive support. This is crucial for improving their health, development, and overall well-being.

The extension of the Home Visiting Program is particularly beneficial for senior caregivers, many of whom are grandparents raising grandchildren. These caregivers often step into parental roles due to various family circumstances, requiring stable and continuous support to manage this responsibility effectively. SB 1396 provides essential services that can alleviate some of the caregiving burdens faced by seniors, ensuring they have access to vital services that support both their well-being and that of the children in their care.

By fostering a stable and nurturing environment for both the child and the caregiver, SB 1396 promotes a stable and comprehensive environment that benefits the entire family unit. This is especially important for seniors, who benefit from reduced physical and emotional stress, enhancing their quality of life and enabling them to focus more on enjoying their golden years.

We urge the Assembly Committee on Human Services to vote in favor of SB 1396 to support this critical initiative, which not only benefits young children and their parents but also significantly aids senior caregivers who play an essential role in raising the next generation.



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Letter of Support for SB-1396

The Honorable Alex Lee, Chair
Assembly Committee on Human Services
1021 O Street, Suite 4120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 1396

Dear Assembly Member Lee and Members of the Assembly Committee on Human Services,

On behalf of Elderly Care Everywhere, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 1396, which seeks to expand the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program to provide services to children up to five. This bill is crucial for ensuring continuous support to families and children in underserved communities, improving their health, development, and overall well-being.

SB 1396 enhances the current CalWORKs Home Visiting Program by extending its benefits to cover children. This extension is critical because early childhood interventions have long-term health and developmental outcomes. According to the California Department of Social Services, such interventions can lead to better educational and economic prospects, significantly impacting the future of children born into poverty.

Enhancements to the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program can benefit senior caregivers and grandparents raising grandchildren by providing additional support and resources necessary to maintain a stable home environment. Many seniors step in to care for young children when parents cannot, and this bill ensures they have access to vital services that can alleviate some of the caregiving burdens. By extending these services, SB 1396 helps ensure that children in the care of senior relatives receive continuous and comprehensive health and developmental services, thereby promoting a stable and nurturing environment for both the child and the caregiver.

We strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB 1396 to support this critical initiative, which benefits young children and their parents and significantly aids senior caregivers who play an essential role in raising the next generation.

Sincerely,
Aakrisht Mehra
Founder/CEO
Elderly Care Everywhere



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About Elderly Care Everywhere

Elderly Care Everywhere is a transformative nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of senior citizens. Since its inception, the organization has positively impacted over 40,000 seniors through a variety of programs aimed at enhancing their quality of life.

Elderly Care Everywhere has been instrumental in alleviating hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical debt, ensuring that seniors have access to the healthcare they need without the burden of financial stress. With more than 20 chapters across the United States, the organization extends its reach and resources to numerous communities, providing support and advocacy on a national scale.

Beyond U.S. borders, Elderly Care Everywhere has established flood relief camps in India, showcasing its commitment to global humanitarian efforts. The organization's impactful work has been recognized by the government of New Delhi, further highlighting its significant contributions to senior care and welfare. Through these efforts, Elderly Care Everywhere continues to lead the way in senior advocacy, ensuring that the elderly are treated with dignity and respect worldwide.

Thank you for your support of SB-1396. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at connect@elderlycareeverywhere.org