

CalWORKs Program Review 2010-2011 Executive Summary

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CalWORKs is a state-funded program which provides special services to Monterey Peninsula College students who are currently welfare recipients receiving cash aid and who have developed (or will develop) a Welfare-to-Work plan with their local county welfare employment services office. Services provided to students include work study, job development/placement, child care, service orientation, education planning and curriculum development, and instruction. The goal of the program is for students to complete an education program within a 12 month period and to be prepared for an occupation that is in demand or in an emerging field. If an education program is not completed within 12 months, students lose their CalWORKs benefits. Few students complete a program within the allotted time due to most certificate, associate degree, and transfer programs requiring more than 12 months to complete. CalWORKs students are eligible for services post-employment.

Strengths

- Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are clearly defined and align with the Student Services SLOs.
- The number of students served has increased each year during the past three years.
- Annual persistence rates for CalWORKs students are higher than the general student population.
- Quality of service is rated high by students surveyed.
- Goals are very specific and thorough and include objectives, activities, timelines, and estimated costs.

Challenges

- Assessment methods need to be defined to measure the effectiveness of existing SLOs.
- The number of students served nearly doubled in one year but the budget remained nearly the same.
- Course completion rates for CalWORKs students are lower than the general student population.
- A small percentage of students fulfill the requirements for a certificate, associate's degree, or transfer.
- Explore reasons why education is not a priority for some CalWORKs students.

Trends

- 60-85 students will be served each year.
- State funding will stay consistent.
- The program will continue to meet with the county at least once a semester to discuss program development/issues.
- Education will not be a priority when CalWORKs students' Welfare-to-Work plans are developed by County CalWORKs Employment Services Caseworkers.
- Students will not continue their education due to the decrease of lifespan of county benefits.

Goals

- Establish a system of internal student data collection, tracking, and research.
- Meet with County Department of Social Services each semester.
- Support events that acknowledge diversity.
- Update CalWORKs website.
- Increase instructional support for CalWORKs students.

Summary

A Student Services Program Review was conducted for the CalWORKs program in the spring of 2011. In 2010-2011, the program had a budget of \$158,263 and the previous year the program served 139 students. Overall, the Program Review is well organized and thorough and CalWORKs continues to maintain its positive reputation as a student serving program on the Monterey Peninsula College campus.