

Public Assistance Programs Overview

February 27, 2024



Department of Social Services

HEALTH

Health coverage

- Medi-Cal
- Covered California referrals

Food aid

- CalFresh
- Community referrals



SECURITY

Cash aid

- CalWORKs
- General Relief

Job services

- Welfare-to-Work
- America's Job Centers
- Job training



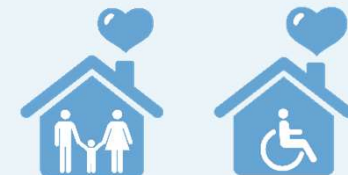
SAFETY

Child services

- Child Welfare Services
- Resource families

Adult services

- Adult Protective Services
- In-Home Supportive Services



Medi-Cal Health Coverage

Medi-Cal

- California's version of the federal Medicaid program
- Public health insurance program which provides health care services to low-income individuals
- Collaborates with Covered California for call transfers and in-person health plan selection
- Currently assisting over 168,427 (38%) Santa Barbara County residents



Medi-Cal Health Coverage

Medi-Cal

- **Eligibility**
 - Varies by Medi-Cal program which can range from no cost to requiring a share-of-cost
- **Income Limits: Determining Tax Household and Income**
 - Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) - Under 138% Federal Poverty Level
 - Non-MAGI – Ex. Long-term Care (LTC), Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD)
- **Benefit Level**
 - Medi-Cal is a comprehensive insurance program with no set benefit level
 - Managed care provider is CenCal Health
 - Behavioral Wellness is the Substance Use Disorder/Severe and Persistent Mental Illness Plan for Medi-Cal

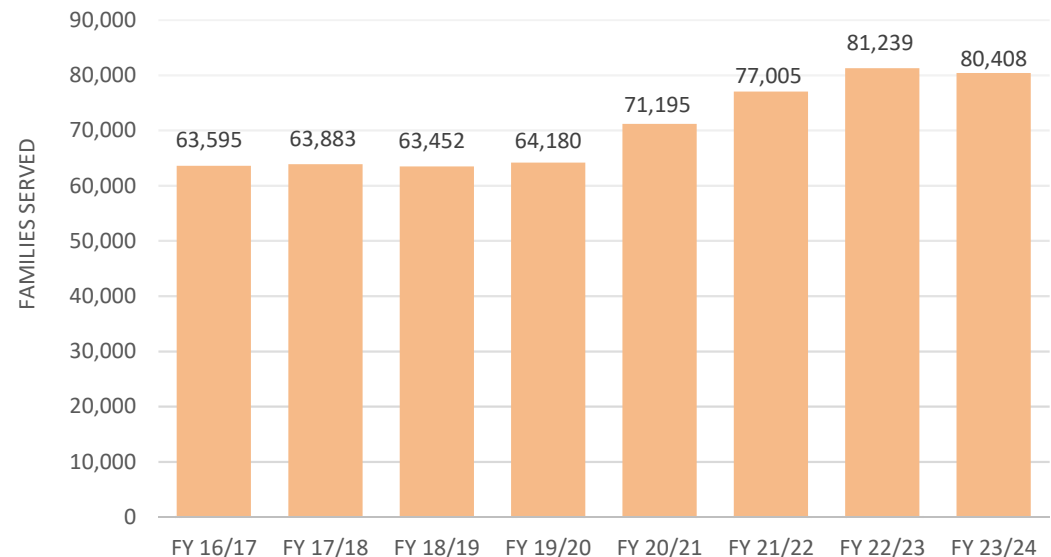
Medi-Cal Statistics

Medi-Cal

- **Total Individuals Served (168,427)**
 - Adult 92,928 (55%)
 - Seniors 65+ 11,937 (7%)
 - Children 63,562 (38%)
- **Demographics:**
 - North County: 55%
 - Mid-County: 17%
 - South County: 28%



Average Medi-Cal Monthly Families Served by Fiscal Year



Medi-Cal Program Initiatives

Continuous Coverage Unwinding April 2023 – June 2024

- Resuming annual renewals for Medi-Cal paused during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

California Advancing & Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM)

- Multi-year initiative seeking to enhance the health and well-being of individuals by transforming the Medi-Cal system to create a more coordinated, person-centered model of care

Other Expansions

- January 2024: Adult Expansion, Asset Limit Changes fully phased-in
- Potential changes in January 2025: Continuous Coverage for Children, Updating Maintenance Need Level

CalFresh Food Aid

CalFresh

- California's version of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Provides monthly food benefits to individuals and families with low income
- Currently assisting 60,083 (13.5%) Santa Barbara County residents



CalFresh Food Aid

CalFresh

- **Eligibility**
 - Household composition, citizenship, resource limits, allowable deductions
- **Income Limits**
 - Gross income below 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and net income below 100% FPL
- **Benefit Level**
 - The allotment is based on household size and household income after deductions
- **Time Limit/Work Requirements for Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD)**
 - The ABAWD time limit of three months in three years is waived in California through 10/31/24

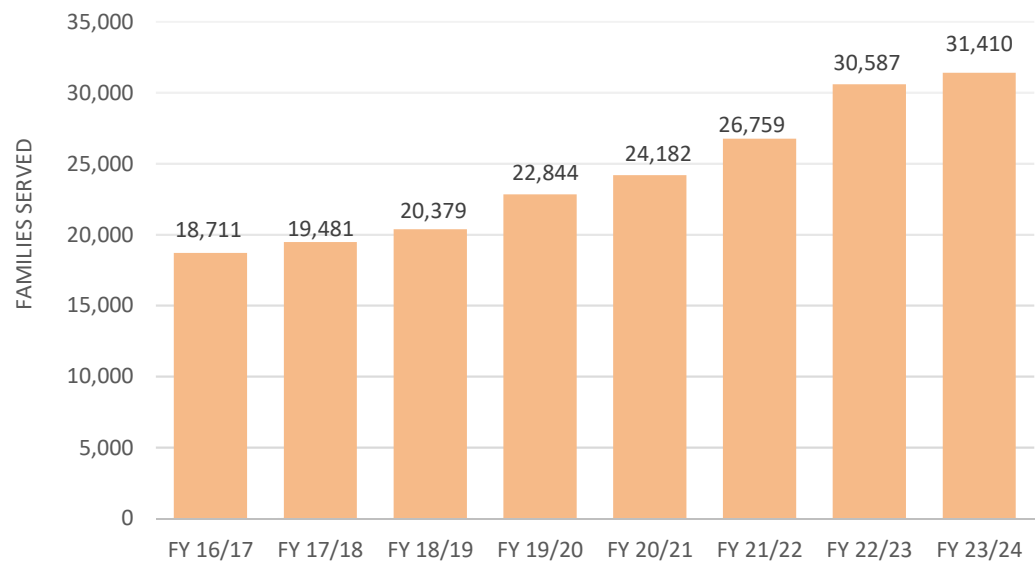
CalFresh Statistics

CalFresh

- **Total Individuals Served (60,083)**
 - Adult 31,108 (52%)
 - Seniors 65+ 6,024 (10%)
 - Children 22,951 (38%)
- **Demographics:**
 - North County: 55%
 - Mid-County: 17%
 - South County: 28%



Average CalFresh Monthly Families Served by Fiscal Year



CalFresh Program Initiatives

Reducing and preventing benefit theft

- Technology enhancements (EBT Edge, card chip technology)

Updated CalFresh allocation methodology

- Last updated 20+ years ago

CalFresh Utilization Project

- A local initiative credited with improving CalFresh participation.
- Paused for the multi-year California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) implementation, to resume Q4 2023/24

CalWORKs Cash Aid

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)

- California's version of federal Temporary to Needy Families (TANF) program
- Provides families with temporary cash assistance to meet basic needs
- Under the CalWORKs program umbrella: Welfare-to-Work, Child Care, and Cal-Learn programs
- Current assisting 8,492 (1.91%) Santa Barbara County residents



CalWORKs Cash Aid

CalWORKs

- **Eligibility**

- Family must have a child who is deprived of parental care through a variety of situations (absence, unemployment, disability, death)
- 100 hour rule, felon status

- **Income**

- The current income limit (Earned/Unearned) for a family of 3 is \$1,753 per month

- **Benefit Level**

- Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) is based on family size and income
- MAP for a family of 3 with zero income is \$1,171 (56% of the Federal Poverty Level)

- **Time Limits**

- Varies by state, but California matches the federal 60-month time limit

CalWORKs/Welfare-to-Work Employment Services

CalWORKs/Welfare-to-Work Supportive Services

- Child Care
- Cal-Learn
- Housing Support Program
- Resource Support Team
- School Supplies/Books
- Linkages
- Family Stabilization Services
- Transportation

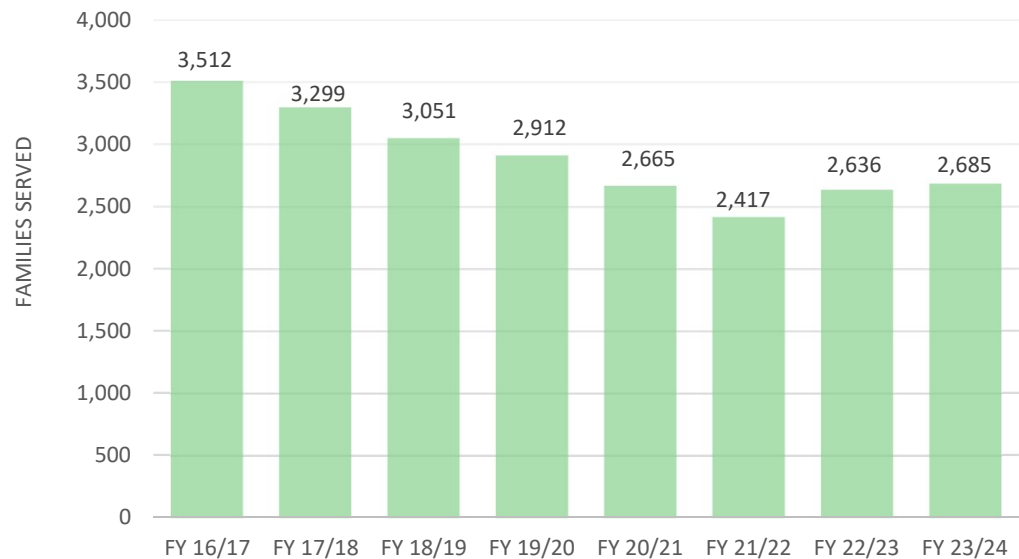
CalWORKs Statistics

CalWORKs

- **Total Individuals Served (8,492)**
 - Adult 3,016 (36%)
 - Seniors 65+ 6 (0.01%)
 - Children 5,470 (64%)
- **Demographics:**
 - North County (67%)
 - Mid-County (23%)
 - South County (10%)



Average CalWORKs Monthly Families Served by Fiscal Year



CalWORKs Program Initiatives

CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review (Cal-OAR)

- California's Cal-OAR is a continuous 5-year cycle of performance measurement, self-assessment, and system improvement
- The first 5-year cycle began in 2021 and concludes in 2026

Linkages

- Allows for continuation of CalWORKs services when a child has been removed from the home and is receiving out-of-home care
- Coordination with Welfare-to-Work and Child Welfare Services

General Relief Cash Aid

General Relief

- Small short-term loans to indigent adults who need help meeting their basic shelter and personal needs.
- State mandated – County funded.
- Strategic partnerships with CalFresh and Adult Services.
- Currently serving 259 (0.05%) Santa Barbara County residents.



General Relief Cash Aid

General Relief

- **Eligibility**
 - County resident, 18+ years old (unless married or legally emancipated)
 - One vehicle is exempt if it is used as housing, otherwise \$1,500 vehicle value limit
- **Income**
 - Gross income must not exceed the Maximum Grant
- **Benefit Level**
 - Maximum Grant is \$300 for a household of one
- **Time limits**
 - Employable individuals are limited to three months of assistance in a 12-month period
 - Unemployable individuals do not have a time limit, must cooperate with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Advocate

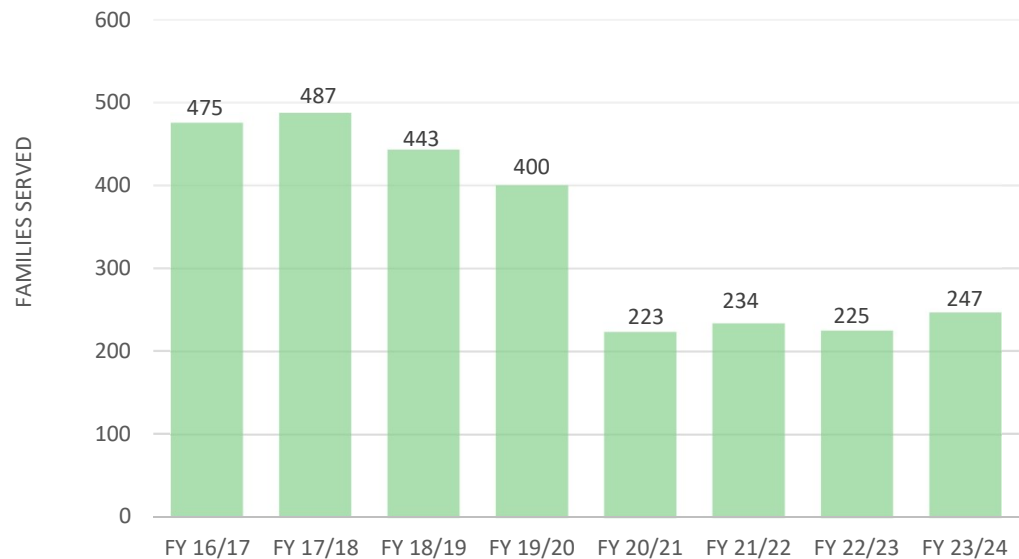
General Relief Statistics

General Relief

- **Total Individuals Served (259)**
 - Adult 257 (99.2%)
 - Senior 65+ 2 (0.8%)
- **Demographics:**
 - North County (30%)
 - Mid-County (36%)
 - South County (34%)



Average General Relief Monthly Families Served by Fiscal Year



General Relief Program Initiatives

Leveraging automation

- CalSAWS is programmed to support General Relief
- Document submission or communication through county online portal (OCTOPUS).

Maintaining relationships and in-person service delivery model

- General Relief cases are served through a caseload model at district offices instead of assigning to the call center.

General Provisions for All Public Assistance Programs

Service Framework:

Horizontal Integration

No Wrong Door

First Class Customer Service

Continuous Process Improvement

Compliance and Accountability:

Program Reviews

Fair Hearings/Ombudsman Services

Data-Driven Decision Making/Performance Measures

Recommended Actions

Receive and file a presentation from the Department of Social Services regarding the Social Services Public Assistance Programs Overview; and

Determine that the activity is not a “Project” subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review per CEQA Guideline Section 15378(b)(5), since the activity is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.