



Feather River College

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM REVIEW – CALWORKS AUGUST 2022. **CALIFORNIA WORK OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO KIDS.**

The comprehensive program review captures the longer-term strategic plan for a program. It allows the program to document its vision. The CPR alerts the campus of the program's mid- to long- term goals and describes the means for achieving those goals. The CPR is the touchstone for creating and reviewing annual program goals and student learning outcomes. CPR information may be used to inform college planning including: the strategic plan, education plan, facilities plan, strategic enrollment plan, including scheduling, budget, sustainability and equity efforts, etc., see AP/BP 3260.

The CalWORKs Program serves local and regional students and their children. Eligible Participants must be receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (welfare benefits) and need to have at least one child under eighteen years old living in the home. This Program provides educational support as well as work force preparation. In addition, the CalWORKs Program provides on and off campus work opportunities enriching the student, their children and the campus.

PROGRAM LINK TO COLLEGE MISSION

Feather River College provides high quality, comprehensive student education as well as opportunities for learning, workforce preparation, and achievement in a small college environment. The College provides general education, associate and bachelor's degrees, certificates, transfer programs, and life-long learning for a diverse student population by serving local, regional, national and international students through traditional face-to-face instruction as well as distance education. The College also serves as a cultural and economic leader for all communities that lie within the District and embraces the opportunities afforded by its natural setting.

The CalWORKs Program supports the Mission of Feather River College by making continuing education as attainable as possible to students who have obstacles to completing their goals of graduation and employment. CalWORKs provides textbooks and supplies such as backpacks, pens, calculators and vouchers for parking and print fees, transportation assistance and gas cards. The CalWORKs Coordinator is available every day to speak with the student for support and encouragement and to coordinate with the case managers at the Plumas County Department of Social Services.

Building Equity based on Student Services Learning Outcomes:

Outcome #3: Students will utilize resources to acquire skills and knowledge to persist in attaining academic and personal goals.

Equity means recognizing differences in race, gender, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation and other social identities among students.

Using resources to improve life circumstances creates a more equitable learning process and experience.

The CalWORKs student is able to access all Feather River College resources. These include:

Advising: Each student is required to have a Student Education Plan on file per Plumas County Social Services CalWORKs Program.

DSPS: (Disabled Student Program Services): Services are available for any CalWORKs student who encounters physical challenges, test anxiety or has an active IEP.

EOPS/CARE: Full time CalWORKs students are eligible for this program as it provides emotional support, financial support and meal vouchers.

Financial Aid: Federal and State aid is important as CalWORKs students are living at the poverty level.

Food Pantry: Each student receives free weekly nonperishable food items.

Masterclass Workshops: Presentations on Parenting, Effective Communication, Creating a Happy Family and Thriving in Life and at work.

Trio: Tutoring for Math, English, Sociology, Spanish and Economics.

Wellness Center: Many CalWORKs students are dealing with stress, depression and anxiety. Each student is encouraged to talk with a counselor as a way to assist with life issues and encourage continuing attendance.

Work Study: CalWORKs will pay 75% of the student's wages. This is incentive for a program or business to hire the student. The money earned through this program does not go against the CalWORKs student's TANF cash aid.

"Since using the resources available at Feather River College, I have more choices and more freedom than I ever imagined. I can raise my children and complete my education. I now feel that I can be successful even though I felt I was at a disadvantage due to my situation in life." - CalWORKs student in the nursing program.

Outcome # 2: Students will demonstrate an awareness of their financial responsibilities for all college expenses by accessing resources to cover costs.

Reviewing the CalWORKs population for the 2021/2022 academic year, 92% received financial aid for one or more semesters, 55 % were in Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), 15% were in Federal low income Opportunities (TRiO), 90% have a Student Education Plan on file.

Several factors have increased awareness of financial standing:

- a. During Intake, the CalWORKs Coordinator accompanies the student to the Financial Aid office to assess their completion of their FAFSA application. There are often unmet requirements or holds due to outstanding bills or loans. Working with the student to resolve these account issues helps ensure successful resolution. Financial obstacles can keep a student from pursuing a degree.
- b. The Coordinator will print out and assist the student with completing the Work Study application. Follow up and advocacy with department directors helps to gain employment for the student.
- c. Assessment of CalWORKs student's needs often include food and clothing for the children. Referrals to local services and organizations are a part of the intake process.
- d. Scholarships are available from several organizations and the CalWORKs Coordinator can assist with the applications.
- e. Budget creation and debt repayment are part of Workshop presentations.
- f. Students are encouraged to check in monthly with the CalWORKs Coordinator and financial issues can be addressed if needed.

Financial stability is necessary for the continued progress of each CalWORKs student and helps to build an inclusive environment where students with children and family responsibilities can meet their financial obligations and complete their education.

Program Accomplishments since the last program review

1. The CalWORKs Program has worked with Student Equity to provide a Lactation Station on campus. All CalWORKs students have at least one child in the home and many are pregnant or nursing a child. The Lactation Station provides a safe, quiet space with a recliner and water and snacks.
2. Incoming CalWORKs students are encouraged to meet with an advisor for a Student Education Plan. This has resulted in an increase of 12% since the last Program review. Students are able to view their progress and work toward a goal.
3. Under Title IX, pregnant and lactating students are entitled to the same benefits offered to students with other medical conditions. Information on Parenting Student Rights is given to all CalWORKs students as a way to explain that no person shall be excluded from participation in any education program or activity due to pregnancy or childbirth.

4. Graduation rates have continued to increase. The Plumas County Social Services has lifted the restriction on certain Programs of study. As of August 2020, the list of accepted Majors was modified to accept any program desired by the student. In 2021, five CalWORKs students graduated and in 2022, seven CalWORKs students graduated.
5. A Masterclass has been offered every semester for the last 4 years. This fulfills a program goal from the last review. Classes for CalWORKs students cover areas of personal and professional development.

Challenges to the CalWORKs Program

1. Childcare is an issue at this time. Plumas County Social Services will pay childcare costs and mileage; however, there has been a shortage of childcare options due to COVID shutdowns. CalWORKs students must have safe, accessible options for childcare or they will not be able to attend class or complete homework. The CalWORKs coordinator is working with Plumas County to advertise the need for childcare providers. Students are encouraged to take child development classes with a goal of opening their own business.
2. CalWORKs students often experience stress and anxiety due to the pressure of dealing with child custody, financial pressure, exhaustion, and mental health issues. This directly effects the student's ability to complete their education. Referral to the Wellness Center and to the Plumas County Behavioral Health are now a part of the CalWORKs Program intake.

Long Range Vision For The Next Four Years:

The CalWORKs Program is designed to serve only those students who have been certified as eligible through Plumas County Social Services. The number of students served by this program is approximately 15 a year. A long-range goal is to reach eligible students through outreach, advertising and knowledge of the program benefits. The CalWORKs Coordinator will begin meeting with all CalWORKs participants through the Social Services Orientation meeting in September 2022. Flyers will be distributed to Social Service agencies in the Plumas County area. The long-range goal is to double the number of participants in the next four years.

Another long-range goal is to provide personal laptops to each CalWORKs student. At this time, CalWORKs students can only borrow laptops. The CalWORKs Coordinator is working on a proposal to purchase laptops for each student.