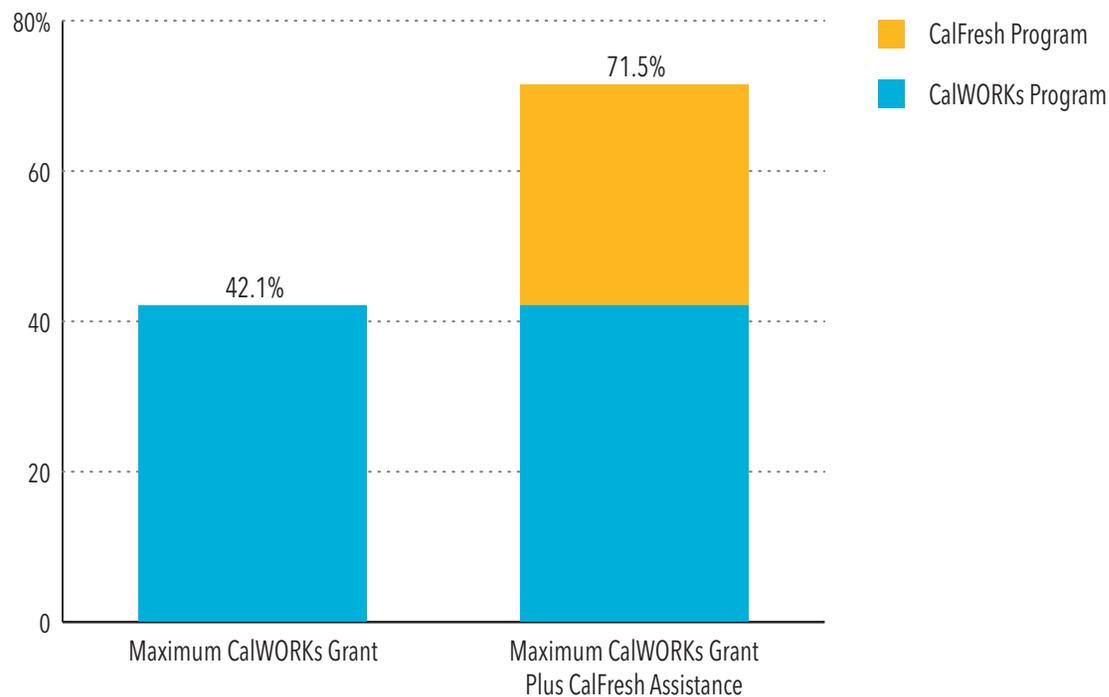




APRIL 2015 | BY KRISTIN SCHUMACHER

Even CalWORKs and CalFresh Food Assistance Combined Fails to Lift Families Out of Poverty

Maximum CalWORKs Grant and CalFresh Assistance as a Share of the 2015 Federal Poverty Line



Note: The CalWORKs grant is for a family of three in a high-cost county.
Source: Department of Social Services, Legislative Analyst's Office, and US Department of Health and Human Services

● **CalWORKs and CalFresh are both key parts of California's safety net for low-income families.**

CalWORKs assists over a million children by providing modest cash grants to families. CalFresh helped to ease food insecurity by providing food assistance to nearly 4.5 million people in 2014.

● **CalWORKs and CalFresh assistance combined is still nearly 30 percentage points below the poverty line.** At these benefit levels, a single mom with two kids and no other income would have to make ends meet with the equivalent of just \$14,400 a year.

● **Food insecurity and poverty often go hand in hand, but public policies can help address these problems.** These programs already lift hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty in California. Boosting CalFresh participation and increasing the CalWORKs grant would go far in further easing the effects of poverty.