

# Supporting Student Parents in Community College CalWORKs Programs

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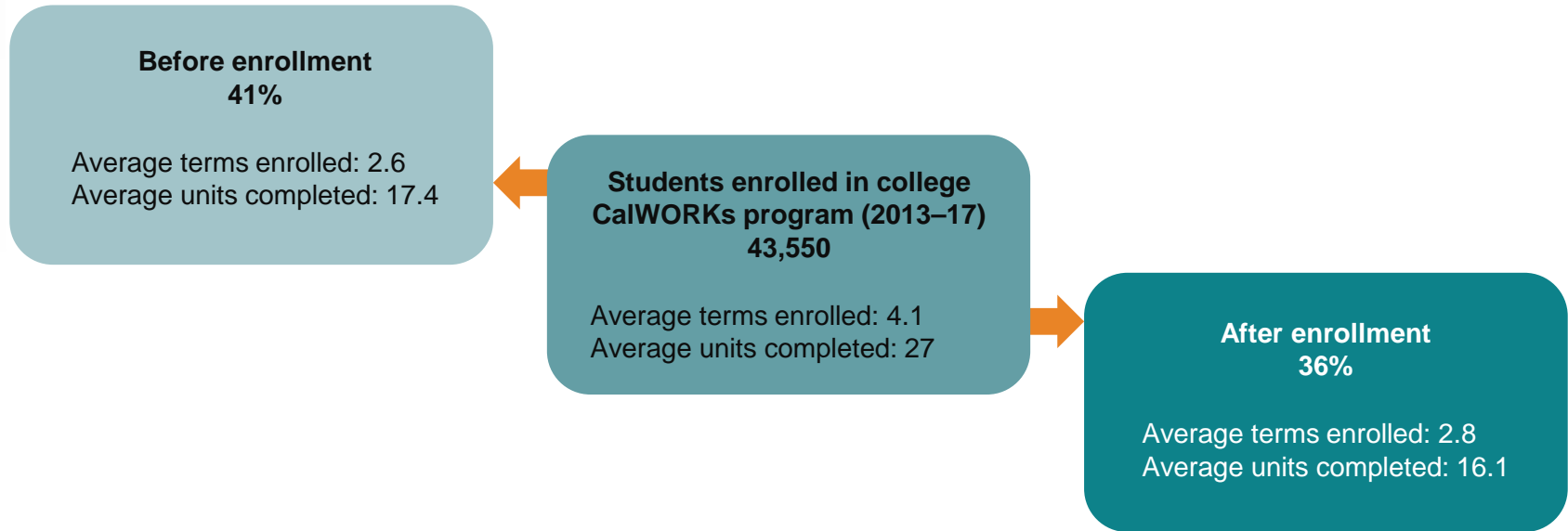
# California community colleges facilitate economic mobility

- About 20,000 CalWORKs students enrolled in CCCs in 2018–19; caseload projected to double due to COVID-19
- California community colleges (CCCs) provide:
  - Educational and vocational training that can fulfill CalWORKs work requirements
  - Additional service and support programs to address challenges students receiving CalWORKs face
- Research purpose: examine CCCs role in building skills and credentials to support the economic mobility of CalWORKs student parents

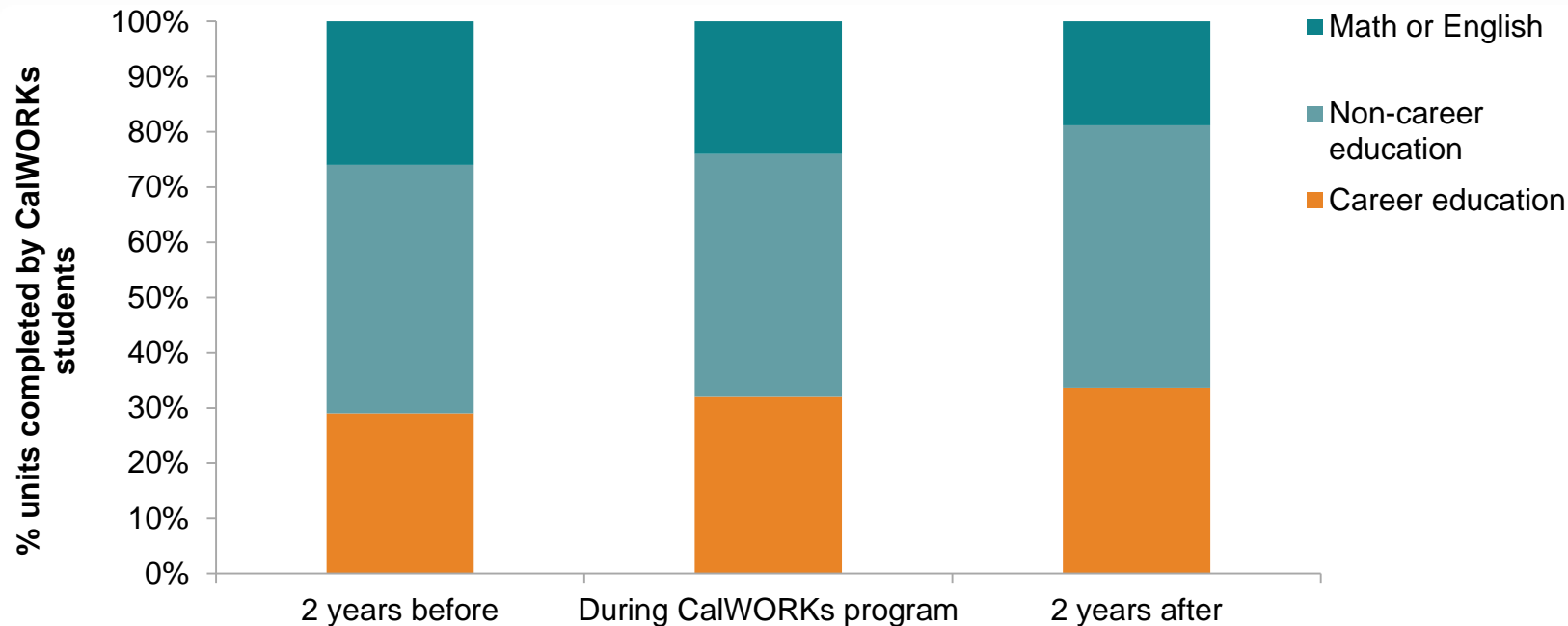
# CalWORKs students are demographically diverse

- Compared to the rest of the community college population, CalWORKs students are more likely to be:
  - Older (25+)
  - Latino or African-American
  - Single mothers
- Mirror student population that pursues career education

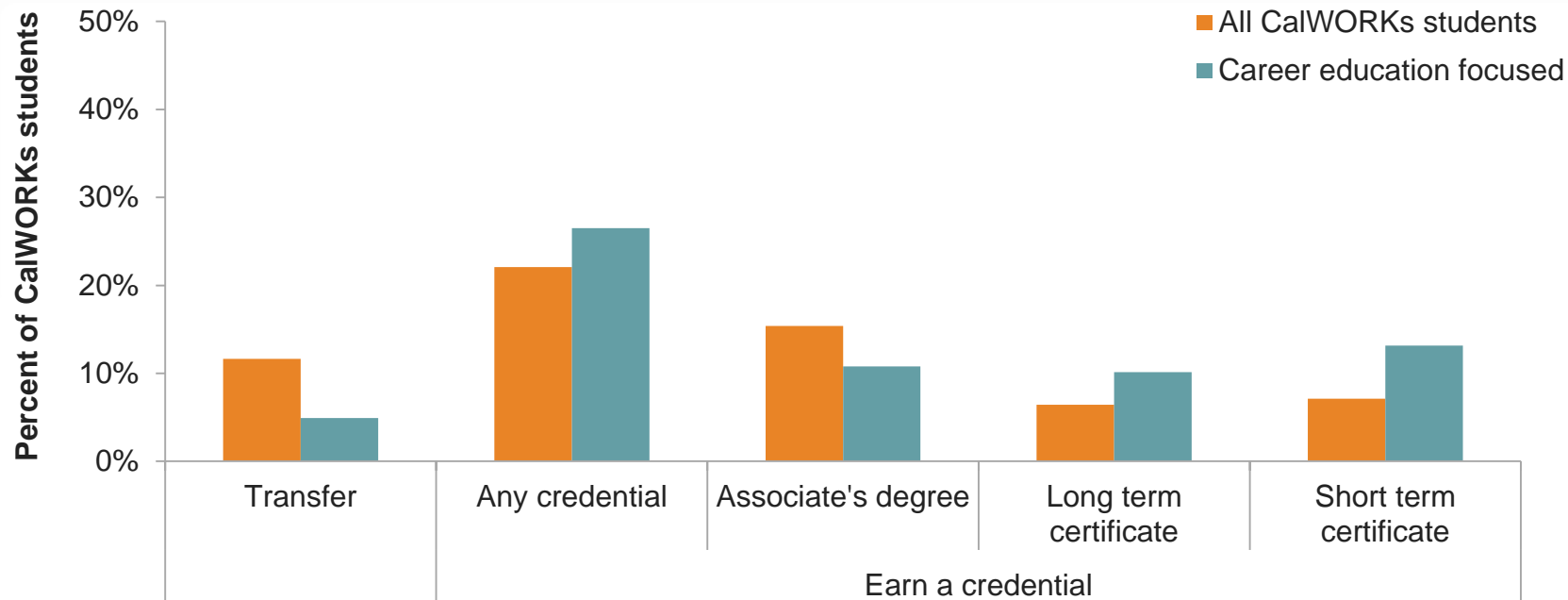
# Many CalWORKs students enroll in CCCs before and after CalWORKs programs



# About one-third of units CalWORKs students complete are in career education fields



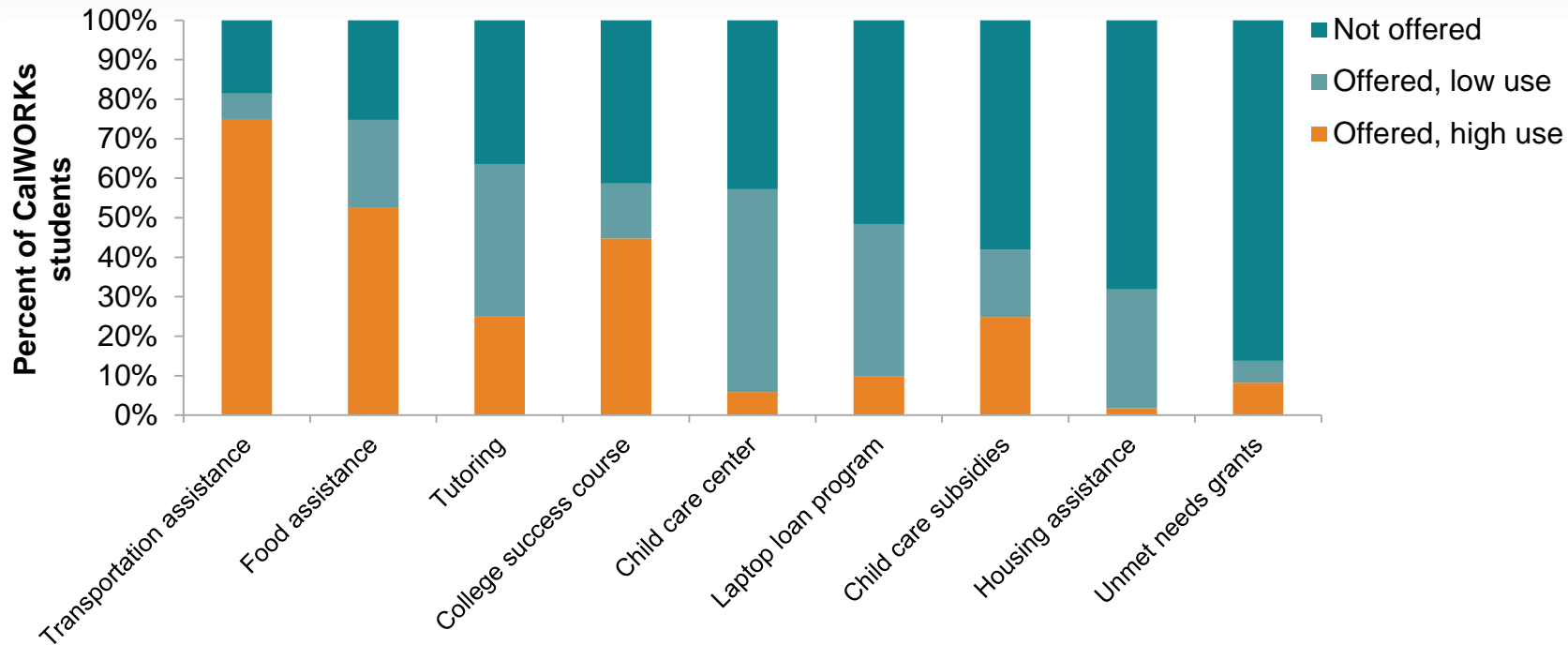
# Completion and transfer rates are low among CalWORKs students



# All community colleges run programs to support CalWORKs students

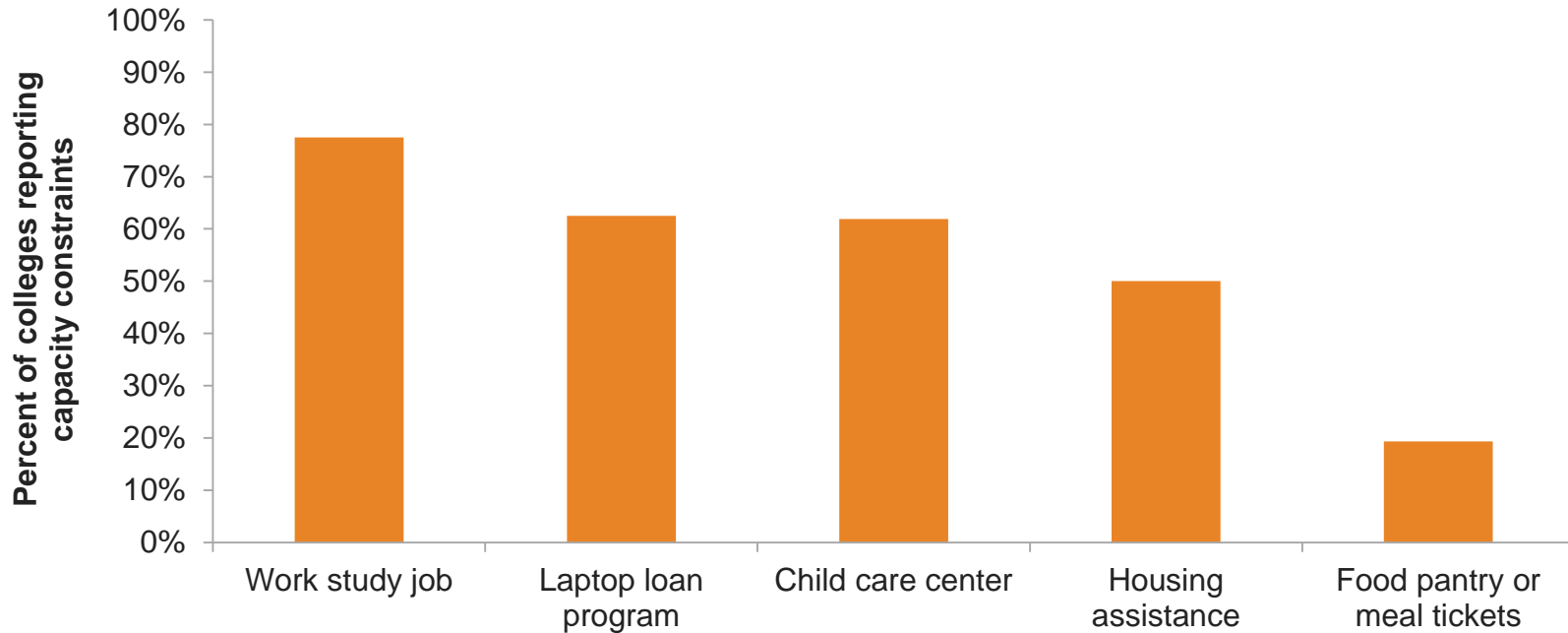
- Dedicated funding from Prop 98 and TANF
- Program directors most often indicated the following as top three goals:
  - Students' well-being
  - Persistence to next term
  - Career readiness
- All CalWORKs programs provide core set of services
  - Case management, academic counseling, work-study
  - Many offer additional supports to meet needs of students

# Services accessible to CalWORKs students vary considerably

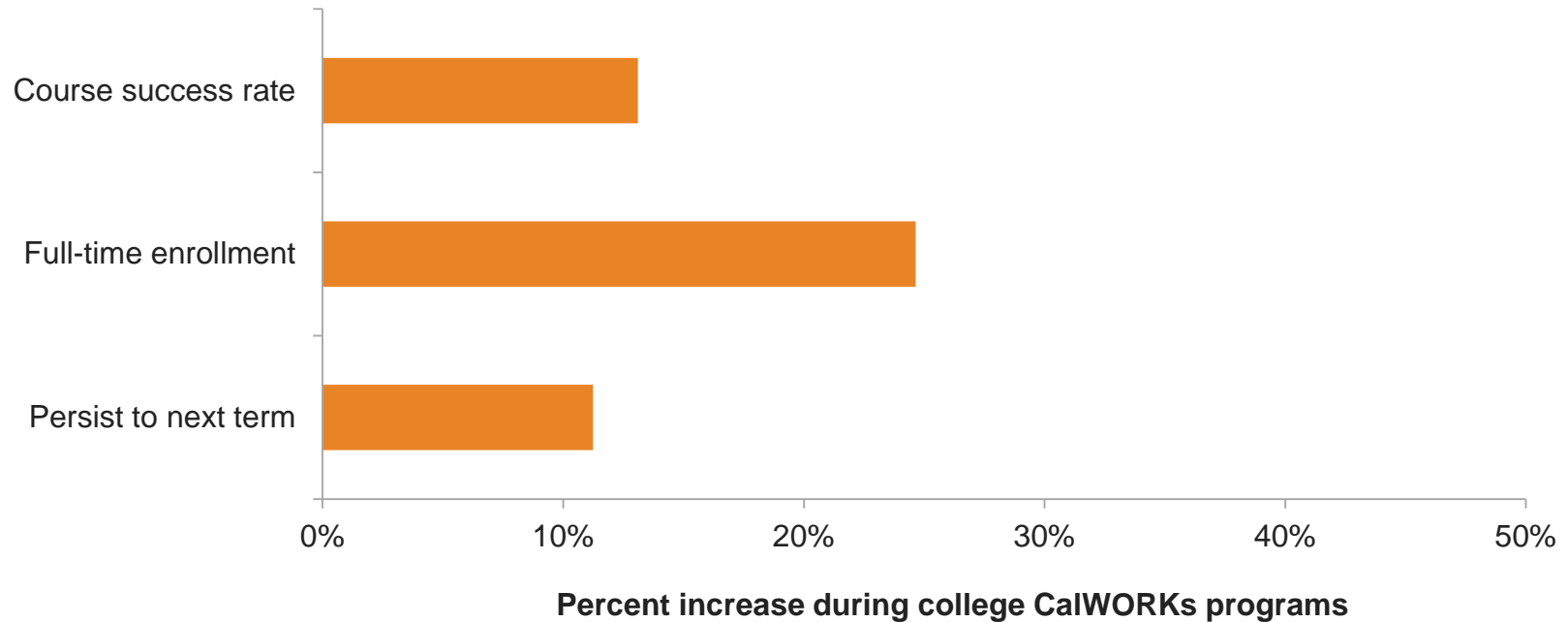




# Due to capacity, students can be denied work-study at nearly 80% of CalWORKs programs



# Students have better outcomes in terms they are enrolled in the CalWORKs program



# Conclusions and recommendations

- Students do better in terms they are enrolled in college CalWORKs programs
  - Core services (academic and personal counseling, case management) likely help students meet term-level outcomes
  - Need more focused, well-designed evaluations of CalWORKs programs to know which supports connect to better outcomes
- Strengthen career pathways for CalWORKs students and better connect them to employment opportunities
- Explore policy levers that will help CalWORKs students complete middle- and long-term goals

# Thank you!

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.