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**CCWRO Welfare Bill & Budget**

**Action Tracker #2023-06**

**May 22, 2023**

**May Revise Highlights**

On May 12, 2023, Governor Newsome released his 2023-2024 [May Revise budget](https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/fiscal-financial/local-assistance-estimates/2023-may-revision-for-the-2023-24-governors-budget). The May revise provides that:

• Effective October 1, 2023 CalWORKs grants will increase by 3.6%

• May revise reveals $2,617,819,000 will be used for programs outside of CalWORKs also known as CalWORKs unvoluntary contributions to the California State general Fund. Meanwhile thousands of CalWORKs children endure toxic deep poverty.

• The budget includes $2.0 million for outreach and $45.0 million for payment system automation in FY 2023-24 to enable the state to opt into the Summer EBT program beginning the summer of 2024. Established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, Summer EBT will provide $40 per month in summertime food benefits to children in households that qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

• The budget includes $50 million to replace the current t cheap EBT cards with chip and tap EBTR cards to stop the millions of dollars being stolen from CalWORKs and CalFresh beneficiaries through electronic theft.

• CFAP expansion that was supposed to be implemented in 2027 is not going to be implemented on September of 2025.

**CalWORKs 2023-2024 Average Benefits**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Case Type** | **WtW participants** | **WtW Exempt** | **WtW Sanction** | **Child Only** | **All TANF/MOE** |
| Average benefit | **$830** | **$855** | **$769** | **$698** | **$779** |

• 2023 May Revision proposes an early reversion of an estimated $280.0 million unspent GF from the FY 2021-22 CalWORKs Single Allocation as a solution to address the state’s budget deficit.

**[Assembly Human Services Committee](http://ahum.assembly.ca.gov/)**

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| **Assembly Bills** |

**All Support/Oppose letters must be submitted** [**here**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)**.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bill Number Author** | **Sponsor** | **Bill Description** | **Next Steps** |
| [AB 94](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB94) – [Davies](https://ad74.asmrc.org/) (R)• Phone – 916-319-2074 • Room # 4720• Taylor MedolyTaylor.melody@asm.ca.gov | [WCLP](https://wclp.org/) and [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/) | This bill would prohibit a call, made by or on behalf of a county for the purposes of administering public social services programs, to an applicant or recipient of benefits from blocking caller identification information and would require the call to display a telephone number. | Killed in Assembly Appropriations. This means counties get to continue to use blocked numbers calling applicants and beneficiaries, and if they don’t answer the blocked call benefits are stopped or application denied. |
| [AB 274](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB274) - [Isaac Bryan](https://assembly.ca.gov/a55) • Phone – 916-319-2055 • Room # 5630• Staff- Amy Ho Amy.Ho@asm.ca.gov | [GRACE](https://grace-inc.org/), and [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/) | This bill would exempt as income for CalWORKs or CalFresh purposes any student assistance that is not means-tested. | Passed the Assembly with no opposition. |
| [AB 310](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB310) – [Arambula](https://a31.asmdc.org/) (D)• Phone – 916-319-2031• Room # 8130Staff –K.Jones k.jones@asm.ca.gov | [GRACE](https://grace-inc.org/), [WCLP](https://wclp.org/) and [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/) | CalWORKs Reform Bill that will change the name from CalWORKs to CalFamily and WtW to Family Assistance and reducing sanctions. | Assembly floor |
| [AB 311](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB311) – S[antiago](https://a54.asmdc.org/) (D)• Phone – 916-319-2054• Room # 6150Staff – Clarissa Dominguez clarissa.dominguez@asm.ca.gov | [NourishCa](https://nourishca.org/)[CIPC](https://caimmigrant.org/?gclid=CjwKCAiA85efBhBbEiwAD7oLQDPTpCSjPnS3BdYwnpwTlejb0qwsA4TDOFiOhEq8zIS52kvB9soCDRoCtscQAvD_BwE) | This bill would provide CalFresh benefits to all eligible Californians without regards to their immigration status. | Passed the Assembly Appropriations. Next step Assembly floor. |
| [AB 325](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB325) – [Reyes](https://a50.asmdc.org/) (D)• Phone – 916-319-2050• Room # 8210• Staff- Ivan Fernandez Ivan.Fernandez@asm.ca.gov | [WCLP](https://wclp.org/) and [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/) | The bill would expand CalWORKs benefits to noncitizen victims of parental maltreatment, noncitizen children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned, and noncitizens who fear persecution. | Passed the Assembly Appropriations. Next step Assembly floor.. |
| [AB 366](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB366) – [Petri-Norris](https://a50.asmdc.org/) (D)• Phone – 916-319-2073• Room # 4230• Staff – Rajeena Bisla rajeena.bisla@asm.ca.gov | [CWDA](https://www.cwda.org/) | This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to improve and increase recruitment and retention of county human services staff to support county operations. | Passed the Assembly Appropriations. Next step Assembly floor. |
| [AB 372](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB372) – [Stephanie Nguyen](https://a10.asmdc.org/)• Phone – 916-319-2010• Room # 5720• Staff – Emily Berryemily.baerry@asm.ca.gov |  | This bill would exempt apprenticeship program or pre- apprenticeship program income for CalWORKs, including child care stage 2 and 3. | Passed the Assembly Appropriations. Next step Assembly floor. |
| [AB 435](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB435) – [Cerventes](https://a58.asmdc.org/)• Phone – 916-319-2058• Room # 6120• Staff – Vanessa Orozco Vanessa.Orozco@asm.ca.gov | [WCLP](https://wclp.org/) and [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/) | This bill would require BenefitsCal to allow CAPI applicants to apply on-line as CalSAWS agreed to do in 2020 and provide equitable services to immigrants by requiring that county webpages include information about immigrant services and benefits. | Killed in Assembly Appropriations Committee. Aged, blind and disabled immigrants can apply for CalFresh and Medi-Cal on-line, but have to do in-person to apply for CAPI – make it hard to get cash aid. |
| [AB 843](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB843) – [Juan Carillo](https://a39.asmdc.org/)• Phone – 916-319-2039• Room # 4320• Staff – Matthew GodinezMatthew.godinez@asm.ca.gov | [WCLP](https://wclp.org/) and [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/) | This bill would codify the Ortega court decision and make changes relative to replacing skimmed CalFresh and CalWORKs benefits consistent with new federal law. | Passed the Assembly Appropriations. Next step Assembly floor. |
| [AB 870](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB870) – [Arambula](https://a31.asmdc.org/) (D)• Phone – 916-319-2031• Room # 8130Staff – K.Jones k.jones@asm.ca.gov |  | This bill would require CDSS to convene a workgroup to develop recommendations to enhance public benefits to students. | Assembly Appropriation Committee – held in committee |
| [AB 928](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB928) - [Reyes](https://a50.asmdc.org/)• Phone – 916-319-2050• Room # 8210• Staff- Marina Espinozamarina.espinoze@asm.ca.gov |  | This bill would require CDSS to annually update the CalFresh student dashboard. | Referred to Senate Human Services Committee |
| [AB 991](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB991) - [Alvarez](https://a80.asmdc.org/)• Phone – 916-319-2080• Room # 5320• Staff- Cynthia YepezCynthia.Yepez@asm.ca.gov | [WCLP](https://wclp.org/) and [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/) | This bill would require counties to accept changes effecting their public social services through email too. | Killed in Assembly Appropriations Committee. Counties can continue to refuse to accept emails from CW/CF applicants/recipients, who want to report income and then prosecute them for welfare fraud. |
| [AB 1148](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1148) - [Bonta](https://a18.asmdc.org/) • Phone – 916-319-2018• Room # 5320• Staff- Haybee DominquezHaybee.Dominquez@asm.ca.gov | [Root&Rebont](https://www.rootandrebound.org/) | This bill would require persons released from prison will have 18 months to start paying child support that they can. | Passed the Assembly Appropriations. Next step Assembly floor. |
| [AB 1457](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1457) – [Ortega](https://a20.asmdc.org/) • Phone (916) 916-319-2020•Room # 5620Staff: Candace RileyCandace.Riley@asm.ca.gov | [AFSCME](https://www.calafscme.org/) | This bill would require that merit and civil service employees can make eligibility decisions for CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CAPI, CFAP, IHSS and APS programs. | Referred to Senate Human Services |
| [AB 1536](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1536) – – [Juan Carillo](https://a39.asmdc.org/)• Phone – 916-319-2039• Room # 4320• Staff – Brenda ContrerasBrenda.Contreras@asm.ca.gov | [CHIRLA](https://www.chirla.org/) | Assembly Human Services Committee on3-28-23 | Passed the Assembly Appropriations. Next step Assembly floor. |

[Senate Human Services Committee](https://shum.senate.ca.gov/)

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| [Senator Melissa Hurtado](https://www.senate.ca.gov/sd16)• Phone (916) 651-4016 •Room # 7310 | Harrison PardiniHarrison.pardini@sen.ca.gov |
| [Senator Caroline Menjivar](https://www.senate.ca.gov/sd20)• Phone (916) 651-4020 •Room # 6720 | Kimberly FuentesKimberly.fuentes@sen.ca.gov |
| [Senator Aisha Wahab](https://www.senate.ca.gov/sd10)• Phone (916) 651-4410 •Room # 7330 | Freddie Quantana, Legislative Aidfreddie.quantana@sen.ca.gov |

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| **Senate Bills** |

**All Support/Oppose letters must be submitted** [**here**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)**.**

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| **Bill Number Author** | **Sponsor** | **Bill Description** | **Next Steps** |
| [SB 36](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB36) - [Skinner](https://sd09.senate.ca.gov/)• Phone (916) 651-4009 •Room # 8630Staff: Kapri WalkerKapri.Walker@Sen.Ca.Gov | [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/) | This would limit the fleeing felon rule to those required by federal and exclude any person who is fleeing to avoid prosecution for abortion in another state. The bill would also prohibit anybody from being arrested for avoiding prosecution for abortion in another state. | Held in Senate Appropriation Committee  |
| [SB 242](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB242) - [Skinner](https://sd09.senate.ca.gov/)• Phone (916) 651-4009 •Room # 8630Staff:  | [[GRACE](https://grace-inc.org/) and [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/)](https://ccwro.org/) | This bill would, to the extent permitted by federal law, prohibit funds deposited and investment returns accrued in a HOPE trust fund account from being considered as income or assets when determining eligibility and benefit amount for any means-tested program until an eligible youth withdraws or transfers the funds from the HOPE trust fund account, as specified | Passed Senate Approps. Next step Senate Floor. |
| [SB 260](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB260) -[Menjivar](https://sd20.senate.ca.gov/)• Phone (916) 651-4020 •Room # 6720Staff: Kimberly Fuentis Kimberly.Fuentes@sen.ca.gov | [California Highschool Democrats](https://cahsdems.org/) | This bill would provide CalWORKs beneficiaries with a monthly standard payment for menstrual products. | Passed Senate Approps. Next step Senate Floor. |
| [SB 299](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB299) – [Eggman](https://sd05.senate.ca.gov/)• Phone (916) 651-4005 •Room #8530Staff: Jen Flory Jen.flory@sen.ca.gov | Author | Under current law if the Medi-Cal redetermination form is returned to the county, the county is supposed to issue a notice and mail it to the same address that it come from. This bill would not allow the notice to be mailed to the same address that was invalid. | Passed Senate Approps. Next step Senate Floor. |
| [SB 343](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB343)- [Skinner](https://sd09.senate.ca.gov/)• Phone (916) 651-4009 •Room # 8630Staff: Elme Lizardielmer.lizardi@Sen.ca.gov  | [C[WCLP](https://wclp.org/) and [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/)](https://ccwro.org/) | This bill would makes changes in the child support system that would improve the system and comply with federal law. | Passed Senate Approps. Next step Senate Floor. |
| [SB 462](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB462)- [Wahab](https://sd10.senate.ca.gov/)• Phone (916) 651-4410 •Room # 6530Staff: Zachariah OquendaZachariah.Oquenda@sen.ca.gov | Author | This bill would make persons eligible for UI benefits who were unlawfully detained or lawfully detained or arrested, but the charge is subsequently dismissed. | Referred to Assembly Human Services |
| [SB 479](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB479) – [Padilla](https://sd18.senate.ca.gov/)• Phone (916) 651-4018 •Room # 6640Staff: Silverio RizollamasSilverio.Rizollamas@sen.ca.gov | Author | This bill would make persons eligible for UI benefits who were unlawfully detained or lawfully detained or arrested, but the charge is subsequently dismissed. | Referred to Assembly Insurance Committee |
| [SB 491](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB491)- [Durazo](https://sd26.senate.ca.gov/)• Phone (916) 651-4026•Room # 7530Staff: Fernando RamirezFernando Ramirez@sen.ca.gov | [[WCLP](https://wclp.org/) and [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/)](https://ccwro.org/) | This bill would require a county to develop and implement a program to ensure residents without a permanent mailing address have a place to receive and pick-up all government-related mail addressed to them. | Passed Senate Approps. Next step Senate Floor. |
| [SB 521](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB521)- [Smallwood-Cuevas](https://sd28.senate.ca.gov/)• Phone (916) 651-4028 •Room # 6510Staff: Jasmine Prasad jasmine.prasad@sen.ca.gov |  | This bill would add denial of reasonable accommodations for pregnant or parenting students, in violation of Title IX, to the list of conditions for good cause of WtW. | Passed Senate Approps. Next step Senate Floor. |
| [SB 600](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB600) - [Menjivar](https://sd20.senate.ca.gov/)• Phone (916) 651-4020 •Room # 6720Staff: Kimberly Fuentis Kimberly.Fuentes@sen.ca.gov | [NourishCa](https://nourishca.org/) | This bill would require that all CalFresh beneficiaries must receive at a minimum $50 a month. | Passed Senate Approps. Next step Senate Floor. |
| [SB 773](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB773) – [Glazer](https://sd07.senate.ca.gov/)• Phone (916) 651-4007•Room # 7520Staff: Shosana Levyshoshana.levy@sen.ca.gov | [CCWRO](https://ccwro.org/)Lead Support | This bill would allow homeless families to receive permanent homeless assistance in certain situations when their rent is above 80% of their income. | Passed Senate Approps. Next step Senate Floor. |

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| [**Assembly Budget Committee Subcommittee # 1**](https://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/sub-1-health-and-human-services) |

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Republican Committee Consultant

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**2023-2024 Assembly Budget Bill** [**AB 221**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB221)

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| **Subcommittee Member** | **Staff** | **Staff Email** |
| [Dr. Joaquin Arambula (Chair)](http://assembly.ca.gov/a31)• Phone – 916-391-2031 • Room # 8130 | Dr. K. Jones | K.jones@asm.ca.gov |
| [Juan Alanis](https://assembly.ca.gov/a22)• Phone – 916-391-2022 • Room # 4640 | Lauren Smith | Lauren.smith@asm.ca.gov |
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| [James C. Ramos](http://assembly.ca.gov/a45)• Phone – 916-391-2045 • Room # 8310 | Michael Chen | Michael.chen@asm.ca.gov |
| [Blanca E. Rubio](https://assembly.ca.gov/a48)• Phone – 916-391-2048 • Room # 5140 | Daniel Folwarkow | Daniel.folwarkow@asm.ca.gov |
| [Jim Wood](https://assembly.ca.gov/a02)• Phone – 916-391-2020 • Room # 390 | Liz Snow | Liz.snow@asm.ca.gov |

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023**
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ARAMBULA, Chair
1:30 p.m. — State Capitol, Room 444
ANTI-POVERTY AND SAFETY NET PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**Department of Social Services**
• Governor’s Proposals for CalWORKs, CalFresh, Housing and Homelessness, and Equity and Immigration Programs
• Major Policy Changes, Budget Change Proposals, and Trailer Bill Language Proposals
• Oversight Issues – Basic Needs of Families and Children in Deep Poverty, Food Insecurity and CalFresh/Emergency Food Programs, Utilization of Housing and Homelessness Programs, and Immigration Service Needs
• Department of Child Support Services
• Governor’s Proposals and Program Update

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023**

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ARAMBULA, Chair
1:30 p.m. — State Capitol, Room 444

• California Health and Human Services Agency, Office of Systems Integration, California Health and Human Services Agency, Center for Data Insights and Innovation

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023**
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ARAMBULA, Chair
1:30 p.m. — State Capitol, Room 444

AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS

**Department of Social Services**
• Budget and Program Update for In-Home Supportive Services, Adult Protective Services (including Home Safe), Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (including Housing Disability Advocacy Program), and the Master Plan for Aging (MPA)
• Major Policy Changes, Budget Change Proposals, and Trailer Bill Language Proposals
• Oversight Issues – Senior Homelessness and Senior Poverty

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023**
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ARAMBULA, Chair
1:30 p.m. — State Capitol, Room 444
SPRING FINANCE LETTERS AND OPEN ISSUES
ALL HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

**Department of Social Services**

• April 15, 2023 Report on CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review (Cal-OAR) Optimization and How This Relates to the Work Participation Rate (WPR) County Penalty Pass

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| [**Senate Budget Committee Subcommittee # 3**](https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/subcommittee3) |

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**2023-2024 Senate Budget Bill** [**SB 72**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB72)

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| **Subcommittee Member** | **Staff** | **Staff Email** |
| [Senator Caroline Menjivar (Chair)](https://www.senate.ca.gov/sd20)• Phone (916) 651-4020 •Room # 6720 | Jessica Jolly | Jessica.jolly@sen.ca.gov |
| [Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman](https://www.senate.ca.gov/sd05)• Phone (916) 651-4005 •Room # 8530 | Logan Hess | logam.hess@sen.ca.gov |
| [Senator Shannon Grove](https://www.senate.ca.gov/sd12)• Phone (916) 651-4012 •Room # 7150 | Mark Reeder | Mark.reeder@sen.ca.gov |
| [Senator Richard D. Roth](https://www.senate.ca.gov/sd31)• Phone (916) 651-4031 •Room # 7510 | Mikaila Kruse | mikaila.kruse@sen.ca.gov |

# Subcommittee #3 Hearing Dates and Topics

All hearings scheduled for 9:30 a.m., or upon adjournment of Session (unless otherwise noted) -Room 1200

**Thursday, March 2**

0530 California Health and Human Services Agency

**Thursday, March 9**

4170 Department of Aging

* 4185 California Senior Legislature
* 5180 Department of Social Services
	+ In-Home Supportive Services
	+ SSI/SSP
	+ Housing and Homelessness Programs
	+ Adult Protective Services

**Thursday, April 13**

* 5175 Department of Child Support Services
* 5180 Department of Social Services
	+ Child Welfare Services

Child Care and Development

**Thursday, April 27**

* 4700 Community Services and Development
* 5180 Department of Social Services
	+ Automation Systems
* 5180 Department of Social Services
	+ CalWORKs
	+ CalFresh
	+ Immigration Programs

**CCWRO Services for IOLTA Qualified Legal Services Field Programs**

**CCWRO -** The Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc. (CCWRO) is a state- wide nonprofit organization providing support services to qualified legal service field programs (QLSPs) funded by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission. CCWRO has been providing support services for the past 35 years.

**CCWRO** provides consultation, information and representation for IOLTA qualified legal services programs regarding public benefit programs such as: CalWORKs, CalFresh, also known as Food Stamps or SNAP, General Assistance and General Relief, SSI, Welfare to Work and other Public Assistance Programs.

**CCWRO** maintains current information on the status of pending or recently proposed and enacted state and federal legislation and regulations.

**CCWRO** collects, monitors and disseminates statistical information relating to public assistance programs throughout California to legal services programs statewide.

**CCWRO** provides public benefits training upon request depending on availability of staff.

**Programs Covered**

• CalWORKs

• Cash Assistance to Immigrants (CAPI)

• Child Care

• Child Support

• CalFresh, also known as Food Stamps or SNAP

• General Assistance/ General Relief

• In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

• Medi-Cal

• Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)

• Welfare Immigration

• SSI eligibility issues

• Welfare-to-Work (WtW)

**Services CCWRO provides:**

- Immediate response to questions from legal services programs regarding public benefit programs, laws and regulations.

- Collects and disperses statistical information and analysis on the public assistance programs, including statistical information upon request from qualified legal services program.

- Provides status information on pending state legislation and regulations.

- Legislative Advocacy

- Administrative Advocacy

- Co-counsel on administrative lawsuits.

- Client representation assistance at fair hearings.

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