

CCWRO STATE BUDGET UPDATE - # 1

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15.7% CalWORKs Grant Reduction Proposal Effective June 1, 2010

Governor Schwarzenegger released his budget that would institute a 15.7% reduction of CalWORKs benefits effective June 1, 2010.

Chart #1 below reveals that if this is enacted by the Legislature, the fixed incomes of California's impoverished families would be below what they were in July, 1985.

This would put CalWORKs grants at 37% of the poverty level.

2010-2011 Governor's Budget Reverts to Fantasy

The 2010-2011 proposed budget was described by Dan Walters, a conservative columnist for the Sacramento Bee, as the Governor reverting to fantasy. The budget protects education and launches an unprecedented attack on human services programs serving the poor of California. The idea pits advocates for health and welfare programs against education advocates.

The Governor's budget assumes that the federal government gives California a welfare check of \$6.9 billion. California has mismanaged its budget affairs by neglecting the reality of the need for revenues. The response from Washington came via Senator Feinstein who said "California's budget crisis was created in Sacramento, not Washington". Moreover, the federal government

has denied funding for undocumented correctional inmates that California has been trying to get for more than a decade. The budget provides that if the Governor does not get his \$6.9 welfare check from the federal government he will propose to eliminate the CalWORKs program, the IHSS program and more.

This means that the federal government would need to take over the TANF program in California. America cannot abandon children - that is child abuse.

The Governor has called another special session to enact \$6.6 billion which would include eliminations of CAPI, CFAP, reduction of individual SSI benefits by \$15, reduction of CalWORKs grant by 15.7%, decimation of the IHSS program and reduction of child care rates. Below is a chart showing the welfare budget cuts proposed by the Governor for 2010-2011.

Family Size	1985-1986 AFDC Grant For a Family of 3 Levels *	Statewide Average Grant Level For a Family of 3 6/10-6/11
1	\$288.00	\$283.00
2	\$474.00	\$461.00
3	\$587.00	\$571.00
4	\$698.00	\$681.00
5	\$796.00	\$774.50
6	\$895.00	\$870.00
7	\$982.00	\$955.50
8	\$1,071.00	\$1,041.00
9	\$1,156.00	\$1,125.00
10	\$1,243.00	\$1,208.50

* SOURCE:
<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/PG278.htm>

Proposed Budget Cuts	2009-2010	2010-2011
	(in millions)	
Reduction of CalWORKs grants by 15.7%	\$47	\$539
Reduction of SSI benefits by \$15	\$13.7	\$177
Reduce State Participation in IHSS Worker Wages		\$272
Limit IHSS to FI Score of 4.00 and above		\$651
Elimination of CAPI		\$107.3
Elimination of CFAP		\$56.2
Eliminate CalWORKs for Recent Noncitizens Entrants Program		\$22.5

Who Gets More?

Counties and automation projects are rewarded in this budget.

In 2009-2010 counties received\$1,455,893,000

In 2010-2011 counties will receive\$1,550,724,000

This is a \$100 million increase in funding for counties and their various computer systems will take right out of the mouths of impoverished children of California.

The Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc. (CCWRO) has been providing advocacy in public benefits since the early 1980s. CCWRO is a statewide nonprofit organization providing back-up services to qualified legal service field programs and representing welfare recipients.