



Welfare *Press Release*

Immediate Press Release - May 20, 2016

The 2016-2017 State Budget will again throw California's children living in deep poverty under the bus

“California budget writers, in concert with the Brown administration, are getting ready to take about \$2 billion out of the mouths of over 1 million CalWORKs eligible children subsisting on an average fixed CalWORKs grant for a family of three (3), **\$507 a month, that is equal to 31% of the federal poverty level**” said Kevin Aslanian of the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations. “That is what CalWORKs families received in 1986” said Aslanian.

For fiscal year 2016-2017 there is **7.1 billion** available to combat deep poverty of the over 1 million CalWORKs children in California. How much does of the **\$7.1 billion** goes to CalWORKs aid the over 1 million CalWORKs babies and children? Only **\$5.2 billion**.

“Only \$3 billion, or 43% of the available **\$7.1 billion** will go to feed and house the over 1 million CalWORKs children living in deep poverty” said Aslanian. “That means less than half of the money will go to California’s poor babies and kids” said Aslanian.

What Happens to the Rest? “Well, 31% will go to the bureaucracy of the CalWORKs program” said Aslanian.

How about the rest? “Another \$1.1 billion will be handed over to the California Student Aid Commission to supplant state general funds” said Aslanian. “Yes. The State Legislature are planning to take over \$1.1 billion out of the mouth of ONE MILLION CalWORKs children to ‘build a state budget’ without shame using CalWORKs dollars to pay for CalGrant Student Aid Payments to students not eligible for CalWORKs” said Aslanian.

“The remaining \$700-\$800 million is used to supplant various parts of the General Fund while 1 million endure severe and deep poverty in California” said Aslanian.

“This is all happening in broad delight and the press has been silent about the immoral taking of hundreds of millions of dollars from the mouths of over 1 million CalWORKs children living in deep poverty” said Aslanian. “Forcing babies and kids to live in deep poverty is equal to “state child abuse” said Aslanian.

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Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.

2016-2017 CalWORKs May Revise Budget at a Glance

**TOTAL CalWORKs Available Funds for
2016-2017**

\$7,041,342 million

How Much is Used for CalWORKs Families?

**Payment to Families
\$3 billion – 43%**

**County Services & Administration
\$2.2 billion – 31%**

What happens to the rest?

CalGrant – \$1,108,508 million – 16%

More than **\$700 million** used the supplant State General Fund
out of the mouths of CalWORKs babies and families – **10%**

What can we do for 1 million CalWORKs children living in deep poverty on an average CalWORKs grant of \$507 a month that is equal to 31% of the federal poverty level?

How much CalWORKs money is not used for the CalWORKs program? More than **\$1.8 billion**

| Program | Annual Costs | Money remaining for the General Fund |
|--|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Repeal Maximum Family Grant | \$220 million | \$1,680,000 million |
| Restore CalWORKs Cuts of the recession & increase grants to 50% of the federal poverty level | \$600 | \$1,080,000 million |
| Reform the Homeless Assistance Program | \$17 million | \$1,063,000 million |
| Repeal the 100-hour rule | \$16 million | \$1,047,000 |