

CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News - #2002-03

January 14, 2002

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GOVERNOR ATTACKS THE POOREST OF THE POOR IN HIS 2002-2003 BUDGET

The 3.9% meager cost of living adjustment (COLA) increase that impoverished families with children are entitled to according to existing law was not included in the 2002-2003 State Budget Proposed by Gray Davis. His budget assumes that the Democratically controlled Legislature will pass legislation to deny the 3.9% COLA due on 10/02. The budget also proposes no COLA for SSI recipients in the 2002-2003 budget.

How much would the CalWORKs (AFDC) COLA cost? The budget document is silent on this issue. The budget document, which can be found at the webpage of the State Department of Finance, does not have any information about this immoral act of Governor Davis. We did ask CDSS for a copy of the COLA estimate, but they also failed to provide us with a copy of the estimate. We are planning to get a copy of the estimate under the California Public Records Act.

So how much does Gray Davis save by denying impoverished families their statutory COLA? Our sources tell us it is a mere \$120 million.

According to the Governor budget (see HHS 149, lines 74 through 78) the TANF block grant provides California with \$3,733.8 million. In order to qualify for this money, the State has to match it with \$2,703.2 million. This is a total of \$6,437 million annually. See: <http://www.osp.dgs.ca.gov/publications/GovernorsBudget03/pdf/hhs.pdf>

Allegedly this is money for impoverished families of California. In reality, TANF has become a Christmas Tree for welfare bureaucrats.

How is the TANF money proposed to be distributed? Below is a list where most of the TANF money will be used.

- Payments to Families - \$3,392.4 million
- Welfare to Work Services Costs (These are so-called services that CalWORKs recipients are forced to accept against their will) - \$1,281.5 million
- County Administration- County Bureaucracy - \$488.7 million
- CalWORKs Child Care - \$476.2 million
- County Probation Facilities- \$201.4 million
- KinGAP Program - Money for Foster Care Kids - \$99.3 million
- Child Welfare Services - Emergency Assistance - \$202.6 million
- Child Welfare Services - Emergency Assistance - Administration - \$48.4 million
- Community Colleges - \$15 million
- CDE Child Care Money - Stage II and III - \$322 million
- Minor Parent Services and Investigations - \$7.1 million

At least \$551.7 million of the TANF money is being used to subsidize the Foster Care Program while children of impoverished families are told to continue to live on a welfare check that is less than what they were receiving in 1992. Of the \$551.7 million, \$201.4 million is a county subsidy for the county-operated children's shelter. Most of these children are taken away from their families because of the immorally inadequate benefits they are getting. Less than 30% of the kids in foster care are removed due to sexual and physical abuse - most are in foster care due to "neglect", which generally is economic.

We submit that there is more than adequate money for the children living in an impoverished family to provide for the CalWORKs COLA in the TANF funds.

Source: November 2001 Local Assistance Estimates for the 2002-2003 Governor's Budget

http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/November20_349.htm

DSS EMERGENCY REGULATION

Emergency Regulation Action Submitted to OAL on 01/09/2002

AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Topic.....Transitional Shelter Care Facility

Section(s) Affected.....Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Sections 84001 - 84478

Comments should be submitted immediately. Comments will not be considered after OAL makes its decision. OAL may make its decision before the latest possible comment date of01/14/2002

OAL Decision Due no later than.....01/22/2002

Agency contact.....(916) 657-2586

Source: Office of Administrative law

CWD VICTIMS OF THE WEEK –

-- Ms. 2001163106 was requested to go to orientation at Rancho Dominguez office of Los Angeles County while she is living in Reseda, which is in San Fernando Valley. This would have taken her more than an hour by public transportation to go to the Rancho Dominguez office and more than an hour to get back. Even though this is good cause, Los Angeles County imposed a sanction unlawfully against Ms. 2001163106 and her children for not attending orientation.

On March 2001 Ms. 2001163106 did the orientation, but the county continued their punitive sanction. She started working in April of 2001 and the county refused to pay her child care and transportation funds. Fed up with this barbaric treatment, she filed for a fair hearing. Before the hearing the county stipulated that the sanction was imposed unlawfully and that they will evaluate her for supportive services. There was no penalty against the county for causing such misery and in essence terrorizing this poor family with their unlawful behavior.

-- Alameda County issued a notice of action on March 8, 2000, imposing a sanction against Ms. 2001149318 for allegedly not participating in the Welfare to Work program. The county stipulated that Ms. 2001149318 did not get the notice of action. The reason she did not get the notice is because her mail box was removed and she asked the county to mail her letters to Mailboxes Etc. in Fremont close to her home. The county refused to do that and instructed Ms. 2001149318 that all of her mail will be going to Hayward

"Fast Cash" location. This is where people cash their welfare checks for a fee. The hearing decision concluded "Not only did claimant never receive the sanction notices, it was Alameda County's fault that she did not receive them." Fortunately Ms. 2001149318 asked for a hearing and is going to get her money back. How many other people have been victimized like this by Alameda County?

STATISTICS OF THE WEEK – Los Angeles County CPS Data

According to CDSS's CWS/CWS2 - December, 2001 report there are 37,253 children in the Los Angeles County Foster Care System.

-- Ethnicity

Black - 19, 131
Hispanic - 13, 747
White - 5,551
Asian - 966

One could wonder what is the percentage of the black population in Los Angeles County.

-- Where are the kids?

19,234 of the kids are in professional foster care homes or group homes. These professionals get thousands of dollars a month and make huge profits.

17,016 have been lucky to end up in the home of a relative.

470 children are in what is called "unspecified home", which could mean ... well the White House? The park? Who knows.

And finally the report shows that there are 533 kids in "other homes". What does this mean? Who knows.

The report also reveals that there are four (4) children in the system whose gender is unknown.

There are 77 kids missing.

-- CPS Accomplishments

(1) The success of the program is to reunify families. Los Angeles reported reuniting 35 kids with their parents.

(2) They also were able to adopt one child during December of 2001. The most success was "Other Termination Reasons" - 104. These are the kids who aged out off course.

Los Angeles County must have hundreds and hundreds of so-called Family Reunification Workers who are suppose to reunify families. 35 kids a months? Shame!

Source: State Department of Social Services.

If you want to know how your county is performing, look for your county report at:
<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/childrensprogram/CWSCMS2.htm>

-- 2002 New All County Information Notices

[ACIN I-01-02 \(January 8, 2002\)](#)

Transmittal Of Temporary Notice Of Action 1230 (TEMP NA 1230) For Retroactive Payments Under The Child Citizenship Act Of 2000

* [ACIN I-02-02 \(January 8, 2002\)](#)

15 Percent Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) Exemption Allocation For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2002 And Criteria For Use of The Exemption

See:

http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/getinfo/dat_acin/showfaq.asp?fldAuto=39&ctx=&catnm=2002%20All%20County%20Information%20Notices

THE TIMES MAN OF THE YEAR FIRES 3,500 WELFARE RECIPIENTS

NY Times 1/5/2002 - January 5, 2002 - City Fires 3,500 Former Welfare Recipients
By NINA BERNSTEIN

"On the last day of the Giuliani administration, the city's departing welfare commissioner ordered the dismissal of more than 3,500 former welfare recipients now working at union wages for the city parks department, and withdrew the promise of such jobs from about 1,200 others who were reaching their federal welfare time limits last month."

CCWRO SERVICES AVAILABLE TO LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS &
WELFARE RECIPIENTS REFERRED TO US BY LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

Types of Services Offered:

Litigation, Fair Hearing Representation, Fair Hearing Consultation, Informational Services, Research Services, In depth Consultation.

Programs Covered

CalWORKs, Welfare to Work (WtW), Food Stamps, Medi-Cal and Refugee Immigration Problems

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc. 1901 Alhambra Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95816

Tel. 916-736-0616

After 6 PM - 916-387-8341

Message/cell number 916-712-0071

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