

CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News

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STATE WELFARE BUREAUCRATS WANT MORE MONEY AND POWER TO PUNISH POOR FAMILIES

The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), formerly the American Public Welfare Association, the federal lobbying group for welfare bureaucrats, has published a piece entitled "For Those We Serve: A Challenge for the Next President..." It has also transmitted another piece entitled "starting point" advocating for more state flexibility and less accountability. APHSA represents the welfare bureaucracy, i.e. State TANF directors. So what are some of the "services" that the TANF program provides to the poorest families of America are:

- **Using less than 30% of the state and federal money meant to benefit the poorest families of America as "payment to families"** while the rest is used for state budget relief and to fund the welfare bureaucracy; (In California this year there was \$6.6 billion available to TANF, but only \$5.2 billion was used for TANF. The rest was used to balance the budget by innovative welfare budgeting and no COLA for the third straight year.)

- **21 states impose full family sanctions, which means aid to the whole family is cut off.** In many cases because the parents or relatives taking care of the kids did not have money for transportation and child care to do the federally unregulated welfare-workfare bureaucratic demands upon the poorest families, often the performance of unpaid labor.

- Except for California, District of Columbia, Indiana, Maine, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and maybe Massachusetts and Michigan all other states **terminate benefits to impoverished children and babies after 60 months-children sentenced to total destitution is the "service" that majority of the TANF bureaucrats perform in the United States.**

- **23 states won't provide cash aid children who were born to a family on welfare.** These children are punished States for not being aborted.

Now these welfare bureaucrats are asking Presidential candidates to do away with meaningful federal accountability while they impose harsh and punitive accountability measures against welfare families. They do not have the professional integrity of asking for the same type of accountability and penalties that they themselves impose on the poorest families of America. **States and APHSA want no meaningful regulations just like Wall Street.**

On 9-23-08 APHSA also mailed a letter to congressional leaders asking Congress to sneak in a provision in the second stimulus bill to reverse HHS regulations preventing these states who use money for alleged case load reduction credit scheme that take credit for using other state funds as expenditures for the poor when it is money that have been traditional been used the State's people, including the poor.

We would support case load reduction credit for states who use 70% of their federal and state match TANF funds for "payments to families". Such states, which do not exist, would should get relief for using the money for the poorest families of America and not the welfare bureaucracy and state budget relief.

Statistic of the Month!

This month we look at the how the State is meeting the needs of hungry families applying for welfare. State law provides that if the family is eligible for expedited service food stamps, then benefits shall be issued in three (3) days. Three (3) days is a long time to go hungry.

During the period of April, May and June of 2008, 36% of the families eligible for emergency food stamps received their benefits after the third day in violation of state law. **This is statistically significant 36% DSS noncompliance rate.** More information coming next week on this topic.