

# CCWRO Welfare News

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

<http://www.ccwro.org>

November 24, 2011  
Issue # 2011-23

## CCWRO Thanksgiving Message

### We Give “Thanks” to:

- parents who struggle to raise their kids on public assistance grants that are now at the same level that they were in 1985 –they are true heroes;
- DSS Director, Will Lightbourne, who has been a revelation. He has been open, responsive and fair to the advocates of consumers of the programs which DSS administers;
- the State Legislature that repealed the gradual reduction of CalWORKs grants for timed-out families;
- those in the State Legislature who fought against more cuts during the budget negotiations of 2011-2012. We will not name names for we will inevitably leave someone out;
- our families and friends who support the parents of public assistance programs who raise their babies and children on the deplorable standard of assistance they receive;
- our families that support us in our work-fighting for justice every day;
- our colleagues who support us in our work- fighting for justice every day;
- those who fund us so we can do our work- fighting for justice every day.



### We Give “No Thanks” to:

- those in the state legislature who voted to reduce CalWORKs grants by 8%, bringing the fixed income of impoverished families in California down to 1985 levels. This cut will result in thousands of impoverished families in California going hungry this holiday season because their food stamps and cash benefits have run out-leaving them no money to buy food or money to travel to food banks that may be available;
- those who continue to say that TANF was a success when all it did was transfer a large portion of TANF funds from the mouths of babies and children to the states to use to balance their budgets, and for “contributions to the California State General Fund.”
- Los Angeles Times reporter, Jack Dolan, who insinuated that welfare recipients were using their fixed incomes to gamble because they used an ATM machine at a casino without any evidence that the money was used to gamble;
- county welfare officials who reduced fixed incomes by another 25-40% by sanctioning over 30 percent of recipients when most of the sanctions were caused by lack of available supportive services to families;
- county welfare department officials who deny transportation to 50% of welfare recipients who are participating in the welfare-to-work programs;
- county welfare department officials who do not allow homeless families to apply for homeless assistance by not making the homeless assistance application available to them.