

CCWRO Welfare News

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“.....children will not be punished for the mistakes of their parents.” Republican, Eric Cantor



“One of the great founding principles of our country is that children will not be punished for the mistakes of their parents,” said Eric Cantor, Republican Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives [addressing the American Enterprise Institute in 2013.](#)

Really? Are you Serious? Exhibit “A” - TANF in America; Exhibit “B” CALWORKs in California. Kids are often punished for what their parents do.

When we told Ms. Strong, a current welfare mom, of this statement, she asked, “What country is he talking about? It can’t be the United States of America. In the USA welfare kids are punished for what their parents do all the time. What bubble does he live in?” Ms. Strong is right. The CalWORKs/TANF/SNAP/CalFresh program is one big program that regularly punishes children for what their parents do.

- Children go hungry because their parents are not able to navigate the multitude of barriers established by the welfare bureaucracy;

- Children go hungry because their parent did not provide a document that they did not have.

- Children go hungry because their parent did not turn in a change report when there were no changes to report.

- Children are punished when their parents are sanctioned for not meeting all of the demands of the TANF/CalWORKs workfare program. Many times, through no fault of their own, the parent did not have child care and/or transportation, but the children are still punished. The family’s fixed income level is reduced by 25% at the same level as grants were in 1986.

There are other types of punishments irrationally imposed on children:

- (1) If a parent reports cash income received but does not have verification, CalWORKs is stopped.

- (2) Families often go homeless because the parent made the mistake of reporting cash income when s/he did not have the verification to provide to the welfare department.

- (3) If a parent does not provide verification of immunization for her/his child under six (6) years. This often happens because s/he does not have money for transportation to go to the doctor, but the result is a 25% reduction in the CalWORKs grant.

This is just a partial list of innocent children being punished daily in the United States of America and the State of California for the alleged mistakes of their parents.