



# CCWRO

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.

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1111 Howe Ave • Suite 635 • Sacramento • CA 95825-8551 Telephone (916) 736-0616 • Fax (916) 736-2645

## CCWRO Welfare News - August 2025 Edition

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**Ways to Fight For Basic Needs During Congressional Break**

by Bob Erlenbusch



**Congress is on break and returns September 2, 2025.**

**Now is the time to build support for H.R. 4849, *Protecting Health Care and Lowering Costs Act of 2025*, sponsored by Rep. Gray Adams (D-CA-13)- **HOLD THE LINE ON HEALTH CARE****

*Background:* H.R. 4849 was introduced on August 1, 2025. The goal of the legislation is to reverse GOP healthcare cuts and extend ACA tax credits. Specifically, the bill's key provisions are to adjust the premium tax credit percentages for health insurance based on income tiers and makes related changes to the tax code. The bill has been referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

To date, all the Senate Democrats have signed on to the bill.

*Ruiz, Hank Johnson, Mannion, Ocasio Cortez, Goldman, Horsford, Barragan, Brownley, Larsen, Costa, Matsui, Quigley, Subramanyam, Krishnamoorthi and Sherman.*

**The goal:** full House Democratic support by mid-September.

**ACT NOW:** contact your CA Democratic House representative and urge them to sign on to H.R. 4849 by mid-september.

Please use the [outreach email template and Dear Colleague letter](#) in your advocacy to help build momentum nationally.

### **Back to School:**

School supplies are up 7%, and families are spending \$160 more just to pack lunch. Groundwork and the Century Foundation's [new report](#) connects rising back-to-school costs to broader affordability pain points. This is perfect for organizing, press, or digital storytelling during August recess. Use it to highlight how families are being squeezed from all sides—healthcare, food, and school costs.

Groundworks analysis: [Eight Ways Trump's Back-to-School Tax is Harming Hardworking American Families](#)

### **Top Issues for Congress: Fall 2025 Session:**

**1. Government Funding:** The new federal fiscal year begins October 1, 2025, and Congress must pass appropriations bills or more likely, a short-term Continuing Resolutions (CR) to prevent a government shutdown.

**2. Tax cuts expiration:** Key provisions of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are set to expire at the end of 2025, including individual tax rate reductions and other benefits. Republicans are focused on making these tax cuts permanent, making it a potential top legislative priority.

**3. Expiring ACA premium credits:** Enhanced premium credits under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are also set to expire.

See KFF's background article on [ACA premium tax credits and how they work](#).

**ACTION: Coalition on Human Needs [CHN]**

Senator Shaheen has reintroduced the *Health Care Affordability Act* to make these enhanced premium tax credits permanent. She stresses that if credits are not extended early in 2025, insurers will proceed with the large rate increases they have already filed, making timely action essential. Altogether, as many as 20 million people across the country could face higher costs, with more than 4 million expected to lose their health insurance entirely.

[Send a message to Congress demanding they extend the ACA Premium Tax Credits as their first order of business when they return from August recess.](#)

## CalFresh High Rates of Procedural Denials



The February 2025 [report](#) [Reaching Those in Need](#), from Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) and data pulled from the [The CF 296 - CalFresh Monthly Caseload Movement Statistical Report](#) from CDSS shows that California's procedural denial rate increased over the past few years (shown on chart below). All County Letter (ACL) No. 16-39E , identifies procedural denials as including the failure to complete the application process by not signing the application, not attending the interview, or failure to provide the requested verification. These reasons are based on a failure to complete a county procedural requirement and are not based on eligibility.

According to the California Policy Lab 2021 report, [Pushed out by paperwork: Why eligible Californians leave CalFresh](#):

“Federal policymakers could: Minimize the paperwork participants must complete, information they need to provide, and the number of interactions they must have with county staff to remain enrolled. Lengthen windows between eligibility verifications. State policymakers could: Continue to work with counties to make the interface that all CalFresh recipients use to complete and submit these eligibility certifications more user-friendly.

improving retention.”


Contrary to the recommendations in this report, counties continue to deny CF on procedural grounds. The CF 296 - [CalFresh Monthly Caseload Movement Statistical Report](#) collates the county's CF data, including the number of applications approved, denied and the number of procedural denials.

The earliest data publicly available on CDSS' website is 2016-2017 (TABLE 1) which reveals that the denial rates were 28-31% and the procedural denial rates were 45-52%.

In 2024-2025, the denial rates increased by more than 15%, which is a significant increase – 42-46%. In addition, it should be noted that while in 2016-2017, the procedural denial rates were 45-50%, the procedural denial rates for 2024-2025 is 67-68%, which is a 25% increase.

**Table #1 - CF 296 from July 2016 to January 2025**

	<b>Total # CF Applications Approved</b>	<b>Total # CF Applications Denied</b>	<b>Total # CF Procedural Denials</b>	<b>% CF Application Denied</b>	<b>% Of Total CF Denials Due to Procedural Denials</b>
16-Jul	84561	38357	17363	31%	45%
16-Oct	92050	41216	18953	31%	46%
17-Jan	94836	37741	19321	28%	51%
17-Apr	80810	32987	17141	29%	52%
17-Jul	90156	41008	22095	31%	54%
17-Oct	98502	54505	33658	36%	62%
18-Jan	10197	48305	28902	83%	60%

Subscribe	Past Issues	18- Apr 86678	44966	27268	34%	61%	Translate ▾	RSS 
		18-Jul 91501	48798	33052	35%	68%		
		18-Oct 84242	55754	38332	40%	69%		
		19-Jan 92564	48500	33609	34%	69%		
		19-Apr 89608	49431	34913	36%	71%		
		19-Jul 168756	80710	59043	32%	73%		
		19-Oct 112084	65263	47808	37%	73%		
		20-Jan 101892	52877	38842	34%	73%		
		20-Apr 202674	92998	57426	31%	62%		
		20-Jul 82738	91396	53282	52%	58%		
		20-Oct 98649	53349	35491	35%	67%		
		21-Jan 131533	72615	52546	36%	72%		
		21-Apr 101706	52979	37427	34%	71%		
		21-Jul 125757	89455	66152	42%	74%		
		21-Oct 145914	92514	68347	39%	74%		
		22-Jan 122929	80218	57622	39%	72%		
		22-Apr 129778	86766	58930	40%	68%		
		22-Jul 132037	91721	60641	41%	66%		

23- Jan	129539	90922	60901	41%	67%
23- Apr	114270	85780	58292	43%	68%
23- Jul	104264	80287	52905	34%	66%
23- Oct	121180	97222	64184	45%	66%
24- Jan	119756	84339	55984	41%	66%
24- Apr	114076	87008	59149	43%	68%
24- Jul	113402	87533	59294	44%	68%
24- Oct	132025	112960	76731	46%	68%
25- Jan	122513	87649	58951	42%	67%

**TABLE # 2** shows the overall denial rates for the latest month of data available – January 1, 2025, for large counties. While Los Angeles County had a 39% denial rate, which is very high, Ventura and Solano County have a denial rate of 49% and Contra Costa County has a 51% denial rate.


<b>Table # 2 - January 2025 CalFresh Denial Rates</b>			
<b>January, 2025</b>	<b>Total # CF Cases Approved</b>	<b>Total # CF Cases Denied</b>	<b>Percentage of Cases Denied</b>
Imperial	749	428	36%
Tulare	1871	1171	38%
Los Angeles	33076	21029	39%
Monterey	1029	728	41%
Butte	788	562	42%
Fresno	4016	2930	42%
Santa Clara	1968	1472	43%

Statewide	95067	73905	44%
Kern	3474	2733	44%
San Francisco	2188	1729	44%
San Joaquin	2052	1627	44%
Orange	6805	5717	46%
Riverside	7519	6385	46%
Stanislaus	1670	1420	46%
Santa Barbara	1070	951	47%
San Bernardino	6659	6146	48%
Sacramento	4811	4513	48%
Ventura	1517	1471	49%
Solano	1077	1050	49%
Contra Costa	1980	2059	51%
<b>Alameda</b>	<b>County Did Not Report</b>		
<b>San Diego</b>	<b>County Did Not Report</b>		

**While the percentages of cases denied shown in Table #2 is high, the percentages of Procedural denials shown in Table #3 is even higher.**

**TABLE # 3** reveals January 2025 CF procedural denial data. The data shows that Los Angeles County procedurally denied 60% of ??????. Merced County has 81% denials for procedural reasons.of expanding CF to all eligible families, it needs to address and limit the counties denials to eligibility-related reasons, additionally and importantly counties must increase efforts to reach out to applicants when procedural reasons are going to cause denials.

Table # 3 – Denial Due to Procedural Requirements Denials				
Jan 2025	Cases Approved	Cases Denied	Cases Denied Due to Procedural Reasons	% Of Total Denials Due to Procedural Denials

Subscribe	Past Issues	Statewide	95067	73905	49861	67%	Translate ▾	RSS 	
	Los Angeles		33076	21029	12584	60%			
	San Francisco		2188	1729	1056	61%			
	Monterey		1029	728	453	62%			
	Imperial		749	428	271	63%			
	Contra Costa		1980	2059	1307	63%			
	Santa Clara		1968	1472	947	64%			
	Solano		1077	1050	681	65%			
	Stanislaus		1670	1420	928	65%			
	San Joaquin		2052	1627	1066	66%			
	Tulare		1871	1171	787	67%			
	Orange		6805	5717	3856	67%			
	Fresno		4016	2930	1989	68%			
	Butte		788	562	389	69%			
	Ventura		1517	1471	1040	71%			
	San Bernardino		6659	6146	4427	72%			
	Santa Barbara		1070	951	690	73%			
	Riverside		7519	6385	4633	73%			
	Kern		3474	2733	1988	73%			
	Sacramento		4811	4513	3500	78%			
	Merced		951	722	586	81%			
	Alameda	County Did Not Report							

**Recommendation:** For the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to achieve its goal of expanding CF to all eligible families, it needs to address and limit the counties denials to eligibility-related reasons, additionally and importantly counties must increase efforts to reach out to applicants when procedural reasons are going to cause denials.



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