



CCWRO

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.

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

CCWRO Welfare News - January 2026 Edition

#2026 - 01

in this issue:

- California Counties Terminate IHSS Services Mid-Month
- AB 42 - CalWORKs and CalFresh Student Assistance Cannot Reduce Benefits
- County Welfare Victim Report
- CalSAWS News



We want to begin 2026 by saying thank you for supporting CCWRO, our 42 years of work to better the lives and condition of public benefit recipients and applicants would not be possible without the support and investment of our community.

California Counties Terminate IHSS Services Mid-Month



California Code of Regulations Title 22 §§ 50193(c)-(d) provides (c) “The beginning date of eligibility for persons applying only for Medi-Cal shall be: the first day of the month of application, if all eligibility criteria of the appropriate Medi-Cal program are met. If the eligibility criteria are not met during the month of application, the beginning date of eligibility shall be the first day of the month, subsequent to the month of application, during which the eligibility criteria of the appropriate Medi-Cal program are met.” Section (d) provides “For the purposes of (c), eligibility criteria are considered to be met throughout the month if they are met at any time during the month, except for persons specified in Section 50273(a).”

Counties are sending out MediCal services termination NOAs mid month.

Ms. 2349179 of Orange County received a NOA dated 01/09/26 stopping IHSS benefits for not attending the scheduled annual IHSS assessment on 01/12/26. She received a letter dated 12/17/25 scheduling her for an annual assessment for 01/12/26. The 12/17/25 letter also said that she can reschedule by calling a number on the NOA. Ms. 2349179 called, left a message to reschedule the appointment several times and has received no response from the worker or the supervisor.

Ms. 2672128 of Sonoma County received a NOA dated 01/13/26 terminating her IHSS benefits on 01/26/26.

Ms. 2434090 received a NOA dated 10/06/25 effective 10/18/25 from Orange County.

Ms. 1810853 of Sacramento County received a NOA dated 01/16/26 terminating IHSS benefits effective 01/28/26 based on an unscheduled home visit of 01/23/26.

CDSS has been told about this violation of federal and state law and to date has refused to take corrective action to stop the persistent violation of the due process rights of California's aged, disabled and blind. All notices of actions are generated through the CDSS controlled IHSS computer system known as Case Management Information and Payrolling System (CMIPS).

AB 42 - CalWORKs and CalFresh Student Assistance Cannot Reduce Benefits



Assembly Bill 42 ([AB 42](#)), a bi-partisan bill from the 2025-2026 session focused on simplifying the CalWORKs and CalFresh eligibility for student aid, will exempt any grant, award, scholarship, loan, or fellowship benefit provided to any CalWORKs and CalFresh applicant and beneficiary that is received for the purpose of attending an institution of higher education, excluding cash payments made directly by friends or relatives. AB 42 was signed in October 2025 and chaptered as Chapter 430, Statutes of 2025, is codified in Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 11157.2 and 18901.09.

EFFECTIVE DATE: AB 42 is effective March 1, 2026

Prior to AB 42, not all grants, awards, scholarships, loans, or fellowships were exempt for CalFresh or CalWORKs purposes.

The idea for AB 42 was conceived by Aaron Edwards, the President of the CalWORKs community college association in 2022. The need for this legislation was also expressed by legal aid advocates.

Below are the AB 42 vote report.

| Vote History of AB 42 | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Date | Committee | Yeas | Noes |
| 3/23/25 | Assembly Human Service Committee | 7 | 0 |
| 5/23/25 | Assembly Appropriations | 14 | 0 |
| 6/3/25 | Assembly Floor | 79 | 0 |
| 6/30/25 | Senate Human Service Committee | 5 | 0 |
| 8/29/25 | Senate Appropriations | 7 | 0 |
| 9/4/25 | Senate Floor | 39 | 0 |
| 9/8/25 | Senate Floor | 79 | 0 |

AB 42 was sponsored by uAspire, Western Center on Law and Poverty and CCWRO. We want to thank Keely O'Brien of Western Center on Law and Poverty and Parshan Khosravi of uAspire for their hard work in guiding AB 42 through the legislative process.

Additional Supporting Organizations include:

CA Edge Coalition
California and The California Family Resource Association
California Association of Food Banks
California Community Colleges, Chancellor's Office
California Family Resource Association
California Student Aid Commission
CFT- a Union of Educators & Classified Professionals, AFT, AFL-CIO
Child Abuse Prevention Center and Its Affiliates Safe Kids California, Prevent Child Abuse
Child Care Law Center
Children Now
East Bay Community Law Center
Faculty Association of California Community Colleges
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
NASW California
Nextgen California

County Welfare Victim Report



LOS ANGELES COUNTY VICTIM FOOD INSECURITY- On 1/6/26, hungry L20CEF1 of Los Angeles County applied for CalFresh. She was eligible for CalFresh expedited service, but no one contacted her for an interview.

She endured a very food insecure weekend. On Monday, January 12th, she called 866-613-3777 hoping to find out what happened to her food stamps. After going through the prompts of the IVR, she landed with a human voice who asked her if she wants to do the interview. She said she sure does. She was placed on hold for the interview. She waited and waited for about two (2). Nobody came back online to do the interview.

She hung up and called 866-613-3777 several times, and each time she was not connected because according to the recording DPSS toll-free line had a high volume of calls, thus, they cannot take calls.

Fresno County Erect Barriers for Californians Trying to Access CalWORKs - Ms. 105130975 of Fresno County applied for CalWORKs on January 9, 2025 for the two related children living with her since October of 2024 and she had an interview with her intake worker on 1/10/25.

Ms. 105130975 stated under oath that she reported to Fresno County that the children were living with her, but the relative caretaker was still aided for November 2024, December 2024, January, February and March of 2025.

After the interview Fresno County requested the following verification:

- Proof of residency for the children - Ms. 105130975 stated under penalty of

perjury that the children were living with her. Did the county have any evidence to the contrary?

- Birth Certificates for the children
- Proof of guardianship for the children
- Proof of IHSS income. The IHSS income is issued by Fresno County. Why does Ms. 105130975 have to give Fresno County information that they have at their fingertips? Is the goal of the program to make it harder to access CalWORKs benefits?
- Sworn Statement regarding Self-Employment Income - Ms. 105130975 already gave the county information of her self-employment on the SAR 2, why does she have to do it again.
- Signed SAWS 2 PLUS – The county interviewed her on 1/10/25 and the county alleges that County electronic signature capabilities were not functioning. Why didn't the county call her back when the County electronic signature capabilities were functioning and get her signature on these forms?
- Signed SAWS 2A SAR - The county interviewed her on 1/10/25 and the county alleges that County electronic signature capabilities were not functioning. Why didn't the county call her back when the County electronic signature capabilities were functioning and get her signature on these forms?
- Signed CW 2.1 NA and CW 2.1Q- The county interviewed her on 1/10/25 and the county alleges that County electronic signature capabilities were not functioning. Why didn't the county call her back when the County electronic signature capabilities were functioning and get her signature on these forms?

On January 30, 2025, Ms. 105130975 application was denied for failure to provide verification.

On February 18, 2025, Ms. 105130975 provided all the requested verification, some of which Fresno County already had. Fresno County approved her application effective April 1, 2025. The Fresno County representative stated under oath that the county did not have 10 days to remove the children from the companion case effective February 28, 2025.

Fresno County could have aided the assistance unit effective March 1, 2025, as there were 10 days between February 18 and February 28, to notice and remove the children from the other case.

Los Angeles County Failed to Provide 10-Day Notice - Mr. 105140771 received a notice of action dated February 28, 2025, terminating CalWORKs benefits effective March 1, 2025, from Los Angeles County. This is a one-day notice of an adverse action and the CalSAWS EDBC system, which is programmed for county workers to assess beneficiary eligibility allowed such unlawful notice to be issued is puzzling.

The law is clear – the county must provide CalWORKs beneficiaries with a 10-day advance notice before terminating benefits. This required by the Supreme Court cases Goldberg v. Kelly, 397 US 254 (1970) and California state regulation MPP § 22-001(t)(1) that states:

“Timely Notice - A written notice that is mailed to the person affected at least 10 days before the effective date of the action.”

On March 28, 2025, Mr. 105140771 asked for a state hearing. The hearing was held on June 12, 2025.

Before he asked for a state hearing, he reapplied for CalWORKs on March 14, 2025 and his aid was approved effective March 14, 2025, but he asked for a hearing to get the aid from March 1 through March 14 that was stopped by Los Angeles County.

At the hearing of 6/12/25, the county representative stated that the CalWORKs redetermination was due in February 2025. On February 13, 2025, Mr. 105140771 completed the phone interview and was informed about verifications needed to complete the redetermination process. That same day, the county also mailed a Request for Verification specifying the verifications needed. The claimant did not provide the requested verification by February 28, 2025, and his CalWORKs benefits were discontinued.

The county representative acknowledged at the hearing under oath that the county did not attempt a personal contact with the claimant prior to discontinuing his CalWORKs case, as required by AB 79, Section 36, that amended WIC section 11265(c)(1) and WIC section 11265.1(c)(5) that expanded the options for the requirement to attempt to make personal contact with a household/AU. Options for making personal contact for late or incomplete SAR 7 and application for recertification/redetermination submissions now include text or other electronic means, when consent is provided by the household/AU.

ACL 21-24 (page 9), implementing AB 79, requires that before terminating benefits, a county worker must attempt to make personal contact via telephone or, if consent has been provided, text message or electronically, to remind the household that a complete report is due and attempt to collect the necessary information to complete the report. Regardless of how consent is obtained or how the attempt for personal contact is made, both the consent and attempt must be documented in the case record.

San Diego County Terminates Benefits for Failure to Provide Verification that was Already Given to the County. Ms. 105137165 is a single parent with one child. On March 18, 2025, San Diego County informed Ms. 105137165 that her CalWORKs benefits would be discontinued effective March 31, 2025, due to her failure to submit a redetermination packet.

On March 5, 2025, Ms. 105137165 completed an in-person interview with her worker. Did the worker ask for the packet to be completed? Any signatures should have been secured by the worker during the in-person interview.

On March 18, 2025, the County informed Claimant that her CalFresh benefits would be discontinued effective March 31, 2025, due to Claimant's failure to provide necessary verifications to reevaluate Claimant's eligibility for CalFresh benefits.

On March 19, 2025, Ms. 105137165 requested a hearing to dispute the County's intended discontinuation of her CalWORKs benefits. During the month of April and May Ms. 105137165 did not have any food assistance.

The state hearing was held on May 5, 2025. The County Representative and Claimant appeared at the hearing by telephone.

Journal Prints were attached to the County's SOP which show the Eligibility Worker (EW) met with Claimant in person on March 5, 2025, for an interview.

San Diego County denied her CalFresh benefits for alleged failure to provide verification which showed Claimant's name on the child support documentation, a bank statement and vehicle registration even though Ms. 105137165 had already sent in a recent bank statement and provided a letter which verified the vehicle was not owned by Claimant.

CalSAWS News

During the CalWIN migration planning, CalSAWS promised the Legislature that CalWIN's features would be incorporated into CalSAWS. One important feature that CalWIN provided to beneficiaries was the ability to check the number of remaining months left on their 60-month clock. CalSAWS did not incorporate this feature.



Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.
1111 Howe Ave • Suite 635 • Sacramento • CA 95825-8551 Telephone (916) 736-
0616 • Fax (916) 736-2645

This email was sent to [<<Email Adcalifornia-welfare-advocates@googlegrdress>>](mailto:Email Adcalifornia-welfare-advocates@googlegrdress)
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
CCWRO · 1111 Howe Ave Ste 635 · 635 · Sacramento, CA 95825 · USA