



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 - February 2026 Edition

#2026 - 02

in this issue:

-In Brief

- California CalWORKs Budget

- Update on Partial Government Shutdown: Department of Homeland Security

- Joint Statement: California SNAP Stakeholders Urge Rejection of Chairman's Farm Bill Proposal; Bill Would Further Erode Nutrition Supports and Increase Hunger



In Brief:

IHSS Victims of the Month:

Federal law provides if a person is eligible for Medicaid at the beginning of the month, they are eligible for the entire month. California is violating this law by unlawfully terminating IHSS benefits mid-month.

#1 - Ms. 105244683 received a NOA dated **12/26/25** which terminated her IHSS benefits effective **1/7/26**.

#2 - Mr. 2436905 received a NOA from Riverside County dated **2/2/26** which terminated his IHSS benefits effective **2/16/26**.

#3 - Mr. 2753646 received a NOA from Riverside County dated **2/4/26** which terminated his IHSS benefits effective **2/18/26**.

Trump Administration Contracts with Mathematica- On February 2, 2026, the Trump administration announced in the federal register that “in compliance with the Ticket to Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (Pub. L. 106–170) Section 101(d)(4)(A), the Social Security Administration is contracting with [Mathematica](#), which according to their site, “..brings together policy experts, data scientists, methodologists, and technologists to design, test, and scale solutions that improve outcomes and drive meaningful change.”, to conduct an independent evaluation to assess (1) the effects of the program on work outcomes and self-sufficiency, and (2) their cost effectiveness.

HHS, OFA is a ghost town - The Office of Family Assistance, in charge of the TANF program has turned into a ghost town. Current vacancies include, Director of the Office of Family Assistance, Director of Family and Economic Stability Demonstration and Innovation Division, Division of Operations, Division of Operations for Tribal Management and Regional Operations, Division of TAN Technical Assistance and Special Initiatives. It's unclear who is deciding to leave these positions vacant, but it is detrimental to the recipient population for these important positions to be vacant and their work not done.

H.R. 1 Medi-Cal Cuts are a Job Killer – According to the Feb 18th report by [UC Berkeley Labor Center](#) H.R. 1 would cost California, which is a donor state to the federal budget, would mean the loss of 200,000 jobs and 140,000 health care jobs.

TRUV Reporting Limited to Application and Renewals Impedes Reducing Errors –

The new TRUV reporting system, described as “instant income and employment verification platform” is a supplemental reporting tool for income and employment verification during the initial eligibility determination and redetermination processes for public assistance programs including but not limited the CalFresh and California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) programs. Many of these working CalFresh beneficiaries do not have an assigned worker to their case. For those without an assigned county worker the only way they can report is trying to call their local call center which are often plagued with long hold periods, often exceeding an hour or more.

New Federal Bill - H. R. 7367, authored by Congress persons Lawler and McBride, will establish a demonstration pilot program to test the innovative use of funds and outcomes-oriented benchmarks for initiatives to support low-income households in accessing hygiene materials. The bill would appropriate \$25 million for the first year, \$30 million for the 2 nd and 3 rd year and \$32.5 million for the 4 th and 5 th federal fiscal years. It will be given to States based on a competitive proposal process This money will go to “basic needs banks” to distribute to low-income persons, not necessarily TANF eligible families.



California CalWORKs Budget In Brief

No Cuts in CalWORKs. We appreciate the fact that Governor Newsom's budget is not proposing cuts to CalWORKs and CalWORKs grants for families living on an average grant that is less than 50% of the federal poverty that has been labeled by academia as "deep toxic poverty".

Below are a few important figures to help understand this CalWORKs Budget:

- Total Available TANF/CalWORKs Funding for SFY 2026-2027
\$9,793,160,000
- Total TANF and State Required maintenance of effort (MOE) not used for CalWORKs eligible families – 34.5% of TANF/CalWORKs available funds
\$3,387,080,000
- CalWORKs Grant Payment – only 31% of available TANF/CalWORKs Dollars
\$3,075,652,000
- **31%** of all TANF/CalWORKs money is provided to CalWORKs families living in deep poverty.
- **69%** of the TANF/CalWORKs money is used to administer the program and balancing the state budget on the backs of CalWORKs families.



Update on Partial Government Shutdown: Department of Homeland Security

The most recent federal budget package, approved at the end of January, 2026, funded all the federal agencies, except the Department of Homeland Security [DHS] which was only funded for two weeks to give time for Congress to negotiate reforms to the agency's immigration enforcement operations - a demand by Senate Democrats in the wake of the murders of Alex Pretti and Renee Good by DHS immigration agents in Minneapolis in January 2026. Congress could not reach an agreement at the end of February 13, 2026, causing a partial government shutdown.

Democrats in the Senate have said they want the following reform:

- Restriction on roving patrols
- Tighten parameters around warrants for searches and arrests
- Toughen use-of-force policies
- Require ICE [Immigrations & Customs Enforcement] agents to remove their masks, display their ID numbers and last names and remove their masks

To date Republicans have resisted all of these proposals, and some have pushed for concessions from Democrats, like stricter immigration enforcement in sanctuary cities.

Overall, more than 90% of DHS's employees will continue working during the funding lapse, with 93% of ICE and Customs Border Patrol [CBP] workers remaining on the job.

Overall the agencies impacted in DHS are ICE, CBP, TSA, FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency], Coast Guard and Secret Service.

Additionally, according to [Politico](#) the fate of the oversight at DHS is in jeopardy, with the department's independent watchdog warning a lapse in funding could jeopardize the 8 active investigations, including reviews of the use of facial recognition and allegations of ICE agents using excessive force. The OIG [Office of the Inspector General] has been forced to suspend 85% of its audits, evaluations and inspections.

Congress is set to reconvene February 23, 2026 and CCWRO will continue to provide updates on this issue.

February 21, 2026 - Joint Statement: California SNAP Stakeholders Urge Rejection of Chairman's Farm Bill Proposal; Bill Would Further Erode Nutrition Supports and Increase Hunger

Sacramento, CA – California's SNAP stakeholders - representing grocers, county administrators, labor unions, legal aid leaders, and other anti-hunger advocates – urge the California Congressional Delegation and House Agriculture Committee Members to reject the proposed Farm Bill put forth by Committee Chairman Thompson (R-PA).

The draft Farm Bill **does nothing to mitigate the extreme harm** that H.R. 1, the budget reconciliation bill, will cause to recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits nationwide. In our state alone, the H.R. 1 provisions put more than half a million Californians at risk of losing the critical food assistance they receive through SNAP, known as CalFresh in California. Specifically:

- An estimated **954,800 CalFresh recipients will be subject to time limits** as a result of H.R. 1.
- About **660,000 of these recipients will be at significant risk** of losing eligibility.

These cuts will disproportionately harm Californians facing the greatest barriers to stable employment, including people experiencing homelessness, veterans, foster youth, survivors of domestic violence, and others navigating unstable work or health challenges,

including parents and caregivers whose dependent children are aged 14-18. These cuts will also damage local businesses due to the substantial loss of economic activity associated with these lost benefits.

Another 72,000 humanitarian immigrants are set to lose access to CalFresh starting in April 2026 due to the harmful federal policies enacted in H.R. 1. This group includes survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence as well as refugees who were admitted legally to the United States, individuals and families who helped U.S. troops or are escaping war-torn countries.

Congress still has time to act. Upcoming Farm Bill discussions present a critical opportunity to reverse the harmful SNAP provisions included in H.R. 1. Unfortunately, the Chairman's mark released last week does nothing to reverse the damage H.R. 1 will do to this vital program. In addition to the time limits and elimination of eligibility for humanitarian immigrants, the bill also contains enormous cost shifts that will jeopardize states' ability to maintain their current programs.

The Chairman's Mark is set to be considered by the Committee on February 23. **We urge a "No" vote on this bill. No Farm Bill, farm relief package, or other related legislation should move forward unless it reverses H.R. 1's SNAP cuts and cost shifts.**

Signed by/quotes from partners:



"California food banks are already stretched thin, [serving more than 6 million people each month](#). Food banks can not make up for the amount of food households are losing as a result of H.R. 1," said **Stacia Levenfeld, CEO at California Association of Food Banks**. For every meal a food bank provides, SNAP delivers nine. Last fall we saw firsthand the impact when SNAP benefits were withheld. By not mitigating the harm done by HR 1, Congress has missed a huge opportunity to support our country's most vulnerable communities. For that reason, we urge Congress to ensure that any farm bill discussion includes reversing SNAP cuts and cost shifts."



“H.R. 1 puts more than half a million Californians at risk of losing food assistance, and this draft Farm Bill does nothing to stop it. Because of ableist time limits and racist, exclusionary policies, hundreds of thousands of households could lose benefits, including parents with children, refugees, trafficking survivors, and survivors of domestic violence,” said **Yesenia Robancho, Associate Director of Policy and Strategy at End Child Poverty California**. “These cuts will force families to choose between groceries and rent. No one should have to make that choice. Congress should be protecting children and families from hunger and strengthening SNAP, not making hunger worse.”



*A Century of Advancing
Human Services for the Welfare
of All Californians*

“H.R. 1 doubles down on failed “proof of work” rules proven by decades of research to block eligible people from the lifesaving food assistance to which they are entitled, and pushes people further into poverty-related hunger. H.R. 1 vastly expands the 3-month period before documenting work hours is required to many more, extremely vulnerable individuals. This increase of people subject to the time limit imposes an unsustainable workload onto counties who are on the front lines implementing these changes, and shifts unprecedented costs onto local governments by halving the federal share of program funding. We ask every California Member of Congress to insist that any Farm Bill reverse these changes and strengthen CalFresh as our nation’s premier program to improve food access and affordability.” **Carlos Marquez III, Executive Director, County Welfare Director’s Association of California**



The Coalition of CA Welfare Rights Organizations [CCWRO] urges the California Congressional delegation and House Agricultural Committee members to reject the proposed Farm Bill proposed by Committee Chairman Thompson [R-PA]. Overall this proposal does absolutely nothing to mitigate the harm that HR1, "the big ugly betrayal," is causing to SNAP recipients. More specifically, these brutal cuts to SNAP disproportionately harm children and families, people experiencing homelessness, veterans, foster youth, and survivors of domestic violence. It is time for Congress to act to protect these vulnerable populations and reject Trump's racist policies. We urge a "NO" vote to the proposed Farm Bill."



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>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
CCWRO · 1111 Howe Ave Ste 635 · 635 · Sacramento, CA 95825 · USA
