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Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.

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CCWRO Welfare News - March 2026 Edition

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In Brief:

States Telling Some People What To Eat & Drink – The Trump Administration has been urging State Governments to control what people can eat; reminiscent of the old Soviet Union and other control economies.

As of February 8, 2026, Nevada has received a waiver from USDA FNS to prohibit

Nevadans from using their SNAP benefits for candy or sugar sweetened drinks for two years.

On March 5, 2026, the State of Kansas received permission from USDA, FNS to prohibit Kansans from using their food stamps for candy and soft drinks.

On January 7, 2026, the Government of Wyoming received permission from USDA, FNS to prohibit food stamp beneficiaries from using their food stamps for sweetened, carbonated beverages.

Effective October 1, 2026, the state government of Ohio will prohibit Ohioans from using their food stamps to drink sugar-sweetened beverages.

These are steps that are often couched in the language of health and wellness, but they are about control and limiting choices for poor Americans. Ominously, accepting choice limiting practices like this for public benefit recipients could lead to federal and local governments dictating to the general population what they can and cannot eat and drink.

Call-Center High Volume Rejecting Calls that Impacts the State Error Rate – In Los Angeles County during January of 2026, 56,316 calls were rejected due to the high volume of calls. During February 2026, 59,489 calls were rejected due to the high volume of calls. Many of these calls are likely to be for reporting changes that may reduce the State's high error rate.

SNAP State Option Report- FNS has an interactive report which is very useful for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) advocacy, the [State Options Report](#). It provides information on all 53 SNAP state agencies' implementation choices on a selection of SNAP policy options and waivers. SNAP state agencies include all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



County Victim Report

1BB1L08 of Orange County had an annual redetermination for CalWORKs and CalFresh. They are a family of two and are working full time. They scheduled an annual redetermination interview on 2-11-26. They were never called and indicated they did not get a message from Orange County that they called. They received a NOA dated 2-14-26 saying their CalWORKs will be denied for failure to upload their redetermination packet by 2/28/26. they did upload their packet on 2-28-26. They also received a NOA dated 2-28-28 saying that effective 3-1-26 their CalFresh benefits will be stopped.

On 3/4/26 they reapplied for CalWORKs and CalFresh. They attended the scheduled 3/18/26 intake interview. According to 1BB1L08, at this interview the worker told them that they had a lot of cases and that 1BB1L08 could do without benefits. They then received a NOA dated 3/17/26 saying that their application is denied for failure to submit verification. They never received a CW2200 which is required (see [ACL 14-26](#)) when the county requests verification.

B1D0920 completed their CalFresh interview on 1/4/26 and signed their renewal form via electronic signature via the county signature recording system, speaking their name and the last four numbers of their SSN. However, within a few days they received a NOA saying that they missed their renewal appointment.

They spoke to the call center several different times but could not resolve the case. In February 2026 they did not receive CalFresh benefits for failure to complete their interview. They were left food insecure for the whole month of January. This is not an aberration. This is a major issue statewide.

20997211 received a NOA from Kern County dated 2/23/26 terminating their IHSS services effective 3/6/26. This violates California [Code of Regulations, Title 22, § 50193](#), the beginning date for Medi-Cal eligibility *is the first day of the month of application if all eligibility criteria are met at any time during that month*. The rule is that if a person is eligible for MC/IHSS at the beginning of the month, they are eligible for the whole month. Also see MPP 22-072.5 below for your convenience.

CalSAWS Programmed In Violation Of W&IC§ 10824.5.

According to Welfare & Institutions Code § 10824.5(c) when a public social services applicant or beneficiary indicate they need an accommodation due to disability consistent with Section 12132 of Title 42 of the United States Code and Section 35.130 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations the notification required by this section “..shall be immediately visible to the caseworker upon opening the applicant’s or recipient’s file in the system.”

CalSAWS BenefitsCal is programmed for applicants to indicate if their need for an accommodation due to disability is consistent with Section 12132 of Title 42 of the United States Code and Section 35.130 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

However, the need for accommodations is not carried over from BenefitsCal to CalSAWS. Thus, once the application is approved, the need for the requested accommodation is not immediately visible to a new caseworker who has to take action on the case after the application is approved. This happens if the worker does not input into CalSAWS that the applicant requested accommodation due to disability consistent with Section 12132 of Title 42 of the United States Code and Section 35.130 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The reason for this is that CalSAWS has refused to program CalSAWS to comply Welfare & Institutions Code § 10824.5(c) that states: “The notification required by this section shall be immediately visible to the caseworker upon opening the applicant’s or recipient’s file in the system.”

If CalSAWS had been programmed to automatically transfer the request for accommodation due to disability from BenefitsCal to CalSAWS consistent with Section 12132 of Title 42 of the United States Code and Section 35.130 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations from BenefitsCal to CalSAWS, then in all cases the need for accommodations would be visible to any worker who touches the case.

This is a major issue given the fact that most of the CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal cases applicants and beneficiaries do not have assigned workers. They have tasked base workers.



Update on Farm Bill

Background: The 208 Farm Bill was extended through September 30, 2026, ensuring that critical programs like crop insurance and disaster assistance continue while the 2026 bill is debated

Update: The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R. 7567) is currently moving through the legislative process. On March 5, 2026, the [House Agriculture Committee](#) voted to advance this comprehensive bill to the House floor. Meanwhile, the [Senate](#) is expected to begin its own work on the legislation within weeks.

Key Components: The current Farm Bill has six titles, each governing a different policy domain:

Nutrition (Title IV) — the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commodity assistance, and related programs

- Commodities — direct payments and price supports for specific crops
- Crop Insurance — federal subsidies for private crop insurance companies
- Conservation — land stewardship and environmental programs
- Rural Development — infrastructure and economic investments

- Research, Forestry, Trade, and Energy — additional agricultural priorities

Critique: The bill fails to reverse the \$187 billion cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] enacted through the budget reconciliation law [H.R.1.

Additionally, the bill fails to restore the federal administrative cost-share to 50%; eliminate the punitive benefit cost-sharing tied to state error rates - both of which create unfunded mandates to state budgets.

Action Alert: Urge Congress to reject the House Ag Committee Farm Bill and restore critical SNAP Funding. Food Research & Action Center [FRAC] letter to Congress. [Click here to send a letter](#)

For more information on SNAP, contact Gina Plata-Nino, gplata-nino@frac.org For more information on engaging your House members, contact Tim Klipp-Lockhart, tklipp-lockhart@frac.org



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