

# CCWRO Weekly New Welfare News

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc. 1901 Alhambra Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95816  
 • Telephone (916) 736-0616 • Cell (916) 712-0071 Fax (916) 736-2645

July 14, 2008,  
 Issue #08-07

## STATE BUDGET UPDATE FROM SACRAMENTO

The budget battle in Sacramento goes on. The budget conference committee has shut down, but the budget has a long way to go. The conference committee reconciles the differences between the Assembly version of the budget and the Senate version. Below is a description of what the conference committee did that is public in the CalWORKs program.

In the final analysis the budget denies impoverished families with needy children a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) enacted into law with the signature of Ronald Reagan for the fourth year in a row. Was denying a COLA to needy children necessary to balance the budget? Not really. The 1996 Federal Welfare Reform Bill (also known as TANF) gives California \$3.7 billion and required California to put up 80%, which is \$2.9 billion, to qualify for the \$3.7 billion federal money in 2008-2009. The Republican Congress did not mandate that this money be used for the poor. States do have the option to use it for the non poor under the guise of "state flexibility." The 2008-2009 state budget proposes that California will only spend \$5.2 billion on poor children living with their parents on CalWORKs. That means a significant amount - \$1.4 billion - will not be spent on CalWORKs children and families in 2008-2009. What happens to that money that by all moral standards should be used for impoverished families with children receiving CalWORKs. It goes many places except to the kids who go hungry in the last two weeks of most months in California. Yes. Americans love kids - who are not poor. The Budget does not include any of the mean-spirited Schwarzenegger proposals for anti-family and anti-child "full family sanctions."

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Description	Assembly	Senate	Difference	Final Action
<b>1. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) County Admin. Reduction</b>	0	7,700,000	7,700,000	Senate Version
<b>2. Food Stamp Program County Administration Reduction</b>	0	14,371,000	14,371,000	Senate Version
<b>3. Child Welfare Services: Resources Family Pilot Program (AB 340)</b>	-179,000	-608,000	429,000	Assembly version of 187 million reduction
<b>4. Suspension of the June 2009 State SSP COLA</b>	0	23,700,000	23,700,000	Assembly Version
<b>5. CalWORKs Work Incentive Nutritional Supplement (WINS)</b>	0	-8,387,000	8,387,000	\$2 million in few counties
<b>6. CalWORKs Pre-Assistance (PEARS)</b>	0	691,000	691,000	Conf. Compromise*.
<b>7. CalWORKs Self-Sufficiency Reviews for Sanctioned Cases</b>	0	691,000	691,000	Assembly Version
<b>8. CalWORKs Revised Income Disregard</b>	0	-15,532,000	15,532,000	Assembly Version
<b>9. Eliminate CalWORKs Pay for Performance Incentive Funding</b>	0	10,000,000	10,000,000	Senate Version
<b>10. Reduce County CalWORKs Single Allocation Funding</b>	0	10,300,000	10,300,000	Assembly Version
<b>11. CalWORKs Funding for the CA Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs</b>	-5,000,000	0	5,000,000	Assembly Version
<b>12. Eliminate the TANF Reserve 0</b>	0	50,000,000	50,000,000	

\* - The conference compromise language is still being worked on. The language is intended to provide for a program that would be agreed to by all stakeholders and comport with federal law.