

Oakland, CA
(Alameda Co.)
Tribune
(Cir. D. 195,937)
(Cir. S. 168,485)

FEB 7 - 1988

Welfare coalition sues, wants speedier aid

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — A coalition of advocacy groups for welfare recipients has filed a class-action suit against the state for delays in processing applications of families in need of assistance.

Welfare applicants said in court documents, filed with the suit this week in Sacramento Superior Court, that they have waited as long as 23 days without learning if they are eligible for aid.

One Sacramento woman was told she and her two children are "not in immediate need" even though "she had no food, money and is being threatened with eviction," the suit said.

The woman has asthma and has been forced to forgo her

twice-daily medication because she can't afford to buy the medicine.

Until 1981, the state paid cash to applicants for Aid to Families with Dependent Children as soon as they applied. But beginning that year, the state adopted the federal option of allowing grants to be paid from the date the applicant is determined eligible.

Groups that filed the suit against the state Department of Social Services are the Sacramento-based Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, the Welfare Recipients League, based in Santa Clara County, Stanislaus County Welfare Rights Organization and San Diego County Welfare Rights Organization.