

CCWRO



Welfare *Press Release*

Immediate Press Release - May 11, 2014

While today child poverty in California is at the highest in the Country, Governor Brown's proposed 2014-2015 May revise budget will take over \$1.6 billion dollars from the mouths of poor children as an "Involuntary CalWORKs Contribution to the State General Fund".

"Governor Jerry Brown is no Robin Hood. Today, the Governor will release his 2014-2015 May Revised State Budget, which takes over \$1.6 billion dollars from CalWORKs families (the only income maintenance program for California's impoverished children) and uses it to contribute to the General Fund," said Kevin Aslanian, Executive Director of the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc. "The budget takes a whopping 46% more from California's poorest children than the previous year" said Aslanian. (See Chart #1)

"The Governor's budget takes money from CalWORKs families whose fixed incomes are FROZEN at 1987 levels," said Aslanian "No COLA for kids. The COLA would have cost about \$60 million said Aslanian (See Chart #2)

"To date, no other Governor has tried to fleece California's most impoverished families out of more than \$1.6 billion dollars a year. Many of these families continue to be

homeless and often hungry while their children suffer from not having their basic needs met," said Aslanian.

"According to a recent report from the U.S. Census Bureau under Jerry Brown California now is **#1 in the Nation when it come to child poverty** under the "Supplementary Poverty Measure (SPM)" said Aslanian.

While the cost of living in California has been rising, CalWORKs benefits have been dropping. In 2009-2010 the CalWORKs COLA was repealed. Last year these children involuntarily contributed over \$1.6 billion to the State General Fund.

These are the questions we have for Jerry Brown:

- Why does your budget take \$1.6 billion dollars from the CalWORKs pot and use it as "contribution to the general fund" while we have a 30% child poverty rate in California when CalWORKs families receive benefits in the same amount that they received in 1987?

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CalWORKs Involuntarily Contribute Billions to the State General Fund – CalWORKs payments are the same *TODAY* as in 1986

Today, CalWORKs families with children receive a monthly fixed income equal to what CalWORKs (AFDC) families received in 1986. The automatic cost-of-living increase enacted by Ronald Reagan was repealed in 2010. Since the change from AFDC to CalWORKs in 1998, CalWORKs families have contributed over \$17.3 billion to the State General Fund coffers.

State Fiscal Year	CalWORKs Recipient Contribution to the State General Fund
FY 1998-99	c
FY 1999-00	\$745,249,000
FY 2000-01	\$1,021,913,000
FY 2001-02	\$1,126,647,000
FY 2002-03	\$1,088,940,000
FY 2003-04	\$1,163,238,000
FY 2004-05	\$1,087,321,000
FY 2005-06	\$1,299,448,000
FY 2006-07	\$1,184,134,000
FY 2007-08	\$1,745,291,000
FY 2008-09	\$1,268,997,000
FY 2009-10	\$1,262,046,000
FY 2010-11	\$1,234,159,808
FY 2011-12	\$1,222,447,450
FY 2012-13	\$1,153,301,000
FY 2013-14	\$1,896,060,000
FY 2014-15	\$1,654,806,000
TOTAL TO DATE CalWORKs Recipients Contributions to the State	
\$18.5 Billion	
Source: CDSS Local Estimates binder Page 10	

2014-2015 CalWORKs Average Grant Payments & Various Poverty Levels

CalWORKs Average Monthly Benefits Compared to the 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) & the Supplemental Poverty						CalWORKs Average Monthly Benefits Compared to the 100% FPL & SPL for CalWORKs Families with 1 Excluded Person Due to a Variety of CalWORKs Penalties and Sanctions.					
Family Size	2014 Federal Poverty Level	2014 Supplemental Poverty Level	2014-2015 CalWORKs Average Grant	% of Federal Poverty	Percentage of Supplemental Poverty Level	Family Size	2014 Federal Poverty Level	2014 Supplemental Poverty Level	2014-2015 CalWORKs Average Grant	% of Federal Poverty	Percentage of Supplemental Poverty Level
1	\$973	\$1223	\$276	28%	23%	1	\$973	\$1223	\$00	0%	0%
2	1311	1708	452	34%	26%	2	1311	1708	\$276	21%	16%
3	1649	2431	600	34%	23%	3	1649	2431	452	27%	19%
4	1966	2832	668	34%	24%	4	1966	2832	600	28%	20%
5	2326	3193	760	33%	24%	5	2326	3193	668	29%	21%
6	2664	3586	853	32%	24%	6	2664	3586	760	29%	21%

Over 500,000 children endure sanctions/penalties annually resulting in sentencing them to very deep poverty that is “state/county government economic child abuse”.