



CCWRO Welfare News-2022-04

Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, Inc.
1111 Howe Ave • Suite 635 • Sacramento • CA 95825-8551
Telephone (916) 736-0616 • Fax (916) 736-2645

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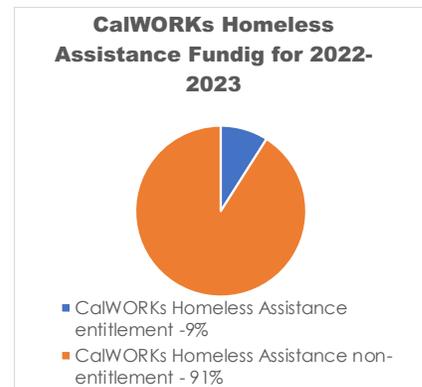
The Newsom 2022-2023 May Revise Budget Good – Could be Better

On May 12, 2022, Governor Newsom released his Revised Budget for 2022-2023. The budget reveals, that again over \$2 billion CalWORKs dollars will go to the State General Fund and it's labeled "CalWORKs Contribution to the General Fund". The budget also reveals that the average grant for a CalWORKs average family effective October 1, 2022 would be \$805 a month, which is equal to 42% of the federal poverty level. Thus, the inequitable deep CalWORKs poverty will continue in 2022-2023. Meanwhile, the average grant for a foster child in 2022-2023 would be \$2,812 a month (over 250% of the federal poverty level) and the average grant for an adopted child in 2022-2023 would be \$1,315 a month (over 116% of the federal poverty level). The average CalWORKs child receives \$314 a month, which is 28% of the federal poverty level.

The Budget Underestimates the Cost of EBT Theft Victim Relief - The 2022-2023 budget estimates that the monthly EBT Cal-Fresh, CalWORKs and RCA EBT thefts will be \$2 million per month. The 2022-2023 budget only allocated \$12 million for a stated \$24 million need.

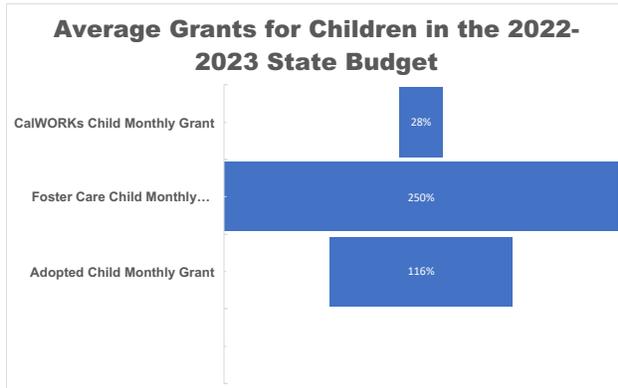
Only 9% of the \$647 million CalWORKs Homeless money is an entitlement going directly to homeless families. - The

2022-2023 budget includes \$647 million for CalWORKs homelessness. Less than 9% is used for the CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program (HAP), the only CalWORKs entitlement program for homeless families of California and 91% is used for the discretionary programs that include a lot of dollars not issued to the CalWORKs homeless families. The HAP program limits services to once every 12 months. This callous limitation renders many babies, children and families to endure months of homelessness.



Ms. Contreras and her two (2) children, Natalia, 11 months and Juan, three years, became homeless in December of 2021. They applied for HAP and received their temporary homeless assistance. She was lucky, before Christmas was able to find a permanent shared housing with the assistance of HAP permanent homeless assistance. In March she was evicted from her housing because her shared housing roommate did not pay the rent. She tried to apply for the HAP program, but the county welfare department showed her and the kids the door and said come back in December if you are still homeless. Her phone has been disconnected and it ap-

pears that Ms. Contreras and her two children have joined the thousands of other homeless families with children because of the mean-spirited restric-



tions contained in the only California homeless program that is an entitlement.

CalSAWS NEWS

County CalSAWS BenefitsCal requires an email address to access all features of BenefitsCal. Why not a use a user name?

CalSAWS, besides operating in the dark for most part, is also violating federal law by requiring CalFresh applicants to have an email address if they want to use all features of BenefitsCal. Unlike County CalSAWS employees who have email, many CalFresh applicants do not. BenefitsCal could have given public social services applicants a choice to use email or a user name. But the managers of BenefitsCal did not consider applicants who do not have an email address or do not want to give out their email address. To assure equity in the food stamp program in [May 27, 2011 USDA FNS](#) released a "Questions and Answer on Online Applications". This guidance says that folks do not

Governor Proposes 11% CalWORKs Grant Increase

AU Size	Current Grant Levels		Grant Levels Effective 10-22			
	Region 1 Non-Exempt	Region 2 Non-Exempt	Region 1 Non-Exempt	More Dollars	Region 2 Non-Exempt	More Dollars
	MAP	MAP	MAP	Eff. 10-22	MAP	Eff. 10-22
1	\$579	\$548	\$643	\$64	\$608	\$60
2	733	696	814	\$81	773	\$77
3	925	878	1,027	\$102	975	\$97
4	1,116	1,060	1,239	\$123	1,177	\$117
5	1,308	1,243	1,452	\$144	1,380	\$137
6	1,499	1,425	1,664	\$165	1,582	\$157
7	1,691	1,607	1,877	\$186	1,784	\$177
8	1,883	1,789	2,090	\$207	1,986	\$197
9	2,074	1,971	2,302	\$228	2,188	\$217
10 +	2,266	2,152	2,515	\$249	2,389	\$217

(Cont'd on page 3)

need an email address to apply. BenefitsCal allows folks to apply without an email address. But there is no ability to use the various features of BenefitsCal, funded with millions of dollars, to help applicants complete their application process.

Transition from Your Benefits Now (YBN) to BenefitsCal is a Nightmare for Beneficiaries - Los Angeles has over 30% of California cases. Many Los Angeles CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal beneficiaries had a YBN on-line account for their public benefits case. Effective May 1, 2022, after several delays, YBN died and now YBN users can use BenefitsCal. In the 21st century one would think that the YBN account could migrate to BenefitsCal without blinking an eye. Well, in order to activate a YBN account in BenefitsCal Los Angeles CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal beneficiaries must (1) enter their YBN account information; (2) enter the mobile phone number that YBN has; (3) set security questions just like they did for YBN and (4) verify the email address and phone number at the same time. To verify the new account beneficiaries must enter numbers texted on the mobile phone and numbers emailed to the beneficiary at the same time. While the creators of this complex system may have smart phones, many beneficiaries do not have the IT gadgets that the BenefitsCal programmers have and many beneficiaries are unable to create an account in this complicated migration system created by apathetic counties.

It is well known that CDSS and DHCS, the single state agencies responsible for the administration of the SNAP, TANF and Medicaid programs, have no control over what California counties do.

CalSAWS Charges CDSS over 40% more for the same change that CalWIN charges – On March 14, 2022, CDSS asked CalSAWS and CalWIN to estimate costs for certain changes in forms; CF 377, CF 377D, CF 377, 4SAR, CF 377.1A, NA 960Y SAR and NA

960X SAR. CalSAWS estimated costs at \$138,469 and it would need 9-12 months to do the form updates. CalWIN said it would cost \$60,000 and it could be done within 6 months to do the same IT work..

How much money and how many IT hours would CalSAWS need to delete the number “18” (years) and replace with number “19” (years)? **\$100,000 to \$500,000 and it would take from 700 to 3,500 hours.** – On March 4, 2022, CDSS asked CalSAWS how much it would cost to automate AB 2052 authored by Assemblymember Quirk-Silva. Current law provides that a child who is 18 years of age can continue to receive CalWORKs if they can prove that they would complete their high school requirements by the time they become 19. AB 2052 provides that a child who is 19 years of age can continue to receive CalWORKs if they can prove that they would complete their high school requirements by the time they become 20. CalSAWS contends that it would cost from \$100,000 to \$500,000 and it would take from 700 to 3,500 hours to change age “18” to age “19”.

How much and how many IT hours would CalSAWS need to delete all resource tests for CalWORKs and delete the 100-hour rule? **\$100,000 to \$500,000 and it would take from 700 to 3,500 hours.** SB 996 would repeal those limitations on assets with regard to eligibility for CalWORKs, thereby eliminating the consideration of an individual’s or family’s assets as a condition of eligibility for CalWORKs. The bill would also make conforming changes to other provisions. This bill would repeal the 100-hour standard described above for purposes of determining a child’s deprivation of parental support or care due to the unemployment of their parent. The bill would also make conforming changes to other provisions.

Does changing ages from “18” to “19”, changing dozens of asset tests, and the 100-hour rule require the same costs and the same time period? Something smells here.

What are Counties and CDSS working on? Tracking log –

- CDSS told CWDA that they are planning to release a draft ACL and revised CW 61/61A/62 that has been in the works for over 10 years. CDSS will review the feedback from CWDA during February of 2022 and then decide what to do. It is now May 2022.
- CDSS and CWDA will collectively work and update chapters of state regulations relative to time limits pertaining the AB 79 in February.
- Counties are wondering if they can transfer a Stage 1 case to Stage 2 without WtW activity? The child care regs give counties extreme flexibility to determine when a case can be transferred from Stage 1 to 2 – that is when the county determines that the beneficiary's participation is stable. "Stable" is defined by the county according to state regulations. Under this inequitable rule one worker can determine that the assistance units' (AU) participation is stable, while another worker in the same county, same unit determine that the same AU is not stable. No wonder the CalWORKs beneficiaries complain about racism and inequity.

Can Counties Ask for Income and Asset Verification for IEVS Hits Outside of the IEVS Hit Period? On 9-3-21 San Diego County asked CDSS "... When a potential discrepancy is identified, the County sends the recipient verification letter to the customer. For IFD abstracts that are identified as being potentially discrepant:

- 1) Is there any guidance in an ACL, ACWDL, ACIN, or any other source that stipulates a limitation to what period of time that income can be requested for, on the recipient verification letter to resolve the discrepancies?
- 2) Can the County request the customer to provide income verifications for the IFD from the time of the

process quarter up until the present date, if the case is still active? If the case is closed, can the County request income verifications from the time of the process quarter up until the case closed?"

On 3-22-22 CDSS responded saying:

"1) Yes. Per MPP § 20-006.543, "the CWD shall verify the (IEVS) information by notifying the recipient in writing of the information received and requesting that the recipient respond within 10 days." Additionally, MPP Section 20-006.542 states that verification shall include the amount of the asset or income involved, whether the recipient had access to it, and identification of the period(s) when the individual actually had the asset or income.

This means that the CWD must only request information needed to resolve the questionable IEVS information, limited to the period covered on the match received.

2) No. Per MPP § 20-006.54, the CWD must only request information needed to resolve the questionable IEVS information, limited to the period covered on the match received. This applies to both open and closed cases.

However, per guidance outlined in ACL 21-16, "If an appropriate third-party payroll source provides information beyond what was reported in an IEVS match showing the client potentially missed a mandatory report (i.e. over IRT), the CWD must attempt to verify the discrepancy by sending a client verification letter in accordance with MPP § 20-006.543. If the client fails or refuses to respond with sufficient information to clear the discrepancy, the CWD must consider the income reported by the appropriate third-party payroll source as verified and determine its effect on eligibility in accordance with program rules."