



Governor's Proposed Mid-Year Budget Cuts Disproportionately Impact California's Women

Keeping his campaign promise, Governor Schwarzenegger has rescinded the vehicle license fee, creating an additional 4 billion-dollar budget deficit. To partially address the short fall, he has proposed 2 billion dollars in budget cuts. These cuts primarily effect education, health and social services, as they account for 70% of total state spending.

Low-income women will bear the brunt of these cuts because they primarily use these services. Women workers will also be affected, as they are the vast majority of social service providers whose jobs will be eliminated.

Healthcare

Medi-Cal provider payment rates reduced by 10%

Medi-Cal pays for a variety of medical services for children and adults with limited income and resources. Medi-Cal recipients (primarily women, children, and the elderly) will have a harder time getting medically necessary services. In California, over 2 million elderly women may be affected.¹

Enrollment capped for Medi-Cal Non-Emergency Services for Qualified and Not-Qualified Immigrants

Immigrant women, especially pregnant or elderly women, will be denied preventive health care and could incur even greater and more costly health problems as a consequence.

Enrollment capped for the Healthy Families Program

1.6 million uninsured California children and their parents, primarily single women, could be denied coverage.² Florida's similar cap produced a wait list of 42,000 children in less than six months.³

Enrollment capped for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program

Women, the fastest growing population with AIDS in California, will be denied necessary pharmaceutical treatment.⁴

Social Services

Social services programs cut by \$3.8 billion over the next 19 months

CalWORKs is a welfare program that gives cash aid and services to eligible needy California families. 80% of Cal-WORKS recipients are women.⁵ The cuts will:

- Reduce monthly support checks to CalWORKS recipients by 5%;⁶
- Eliminate the new transitional food stamp program for those timing off CalWORKS;
- Repeal AB 231, which exempts the value of a household's cars when calculating eligibility for food stamps; and
- Limit enrollment of certain qualified immigrants into the CalWORKS program.

Elimination of the In-Home Supportive Services Program

Over 175,000 blind, elderly, and disabled women (67% of recipients) may need to enter into nursing homes because program services such as bathing, transportation, and other non-medical services will be eliminated.⁷

Elimination of state wage assistance for long-term care facility staff

Women's earnings, economic security, and quality of life will be at risk, as women make up the majority of long-term caregivers and recipients.⁸

¹ <http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsTable>.

² <http://www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/HealthyFamilies/hfp/hfacts.htm#PROBLEM>.

³ Florida KidCare Coordinating Council.

⁴ <http://www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/ps/ooa/aboutoa/pdf/WomenHIV.pdf>.

⁵ <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/res/pdf/CalWKsCharFFY01.pdf>.

⁶ The maximum grant amount for a family of three living in a high cost area such as Los Angeles is \$704.

⁷ <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/res/pdf/IHSSrecipient.pdf>.

⁸ http://research.aarp.org/health/fs77_women.html.