

On May 14th, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger released his revision to the state's 2010-11 budget. The Governor's May Revision is a worst case scenario that would increase homelessness and poverty, childhood hunger, emergency room crowding, and quite possibly, deaths. This is a devastating budget proposal for all Californians, and especially those with lower incomes or who have disabilities.

The news was equally dire for immigrant communities. In addition to eliminating the CalWORKs program, the Governor has again proposed the outright elimination of certain critical services that protect vulnerable immigrants and their families. The following is a summary of the impact on health and human service programs if the Governor's proposal were adopted.

What Can You Do?

- Join us at Immigrant Day! Monday, May 17th in Sacramento. Visit www.caimmigrant.org to register.
- Join the Health and Human Services Network for a call on Tuesday, May 18th at 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
DIAL-IN: 1-866-516-5393 **PASS-CODE:** 78010970#
- Join immigrant rights advocates and communities of color for a statewide briefing call on Friday, May 21 at 11a.m. to discuss the immigrant-specific provisions of the Governor's May Revise. **DIAL-IN:** 1-605-475-6333 **PASS-CODE:** 295326
- Sign on to the petition to stop California's corporate tax giveaways!
http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/no_more_giveaways/

Human Services

- *Eliminate CalWORKs:* This elimination alone would affect nearly 1.4 million low-income children and their parents. CalWORKs provides cash assistance, child care, job training, and employment placement to low-income families with children and helps parents overcome barriers to employment, and three out of four CalWORKs recipients are children.
- *Eliminate CalWORKs for Recent Legal Noncitizen Entrants:* If the full-scale elimination of CalWORKs does not take place, the Governor has proposed reducing participation in the program by eliminating access to CalWORKs for many lawful immigrants who have lived in the United States for fewer than five years. Although strict rules are already in place to ensure that aid can only be given to the most needy, this proposal would endanger 24,000 lawful immigrants who would otherwise become homeless or be forced to live in dangerous conditions. A 2003 report from the California Institute on Mental Health showed that over 83 percent of CalWORKs recipients are or have been victims of domestic violence. In the cases of immigrants in the program, taking away CalWORKs benefits could force victims of domestic

violence and their children to stay in abusive situations.

- *Eliminate the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)*: CAPI allows just over 8500 aged, blind, or disabled legal immigrants, who would be eligible for the SSI/SSP program but for their immigration status, to receive cash assistance as their livelihood. CAPI is quite literally the difference between life and death for its beneficiaries, who have no other source of assistance.

- *Eliminate the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)*: CFAP provides food stamp benefits to approximately 37,000 low-income legal non-citizens between the ages of 18 and 65, who meet all the eligibility requirements for the federal Food Stamp program but have resided in the United States for less than five years.

- *Reduce Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) Grants*: This proposal would reduce maximum monthly grants to the federally-allowed minimum amount. Grant cuts to SSI also affect the grants to CAPI beneficiaries.

Healthcare:

California has led the nation in efforts to ensure fair and equal access to health care for legal immigrants. Restricting low-income immigrants' access to Medi-Cal is inhumane, and would not result in significant cost savings. In fact, this restriction would result in higher human and fiscal costs for the state and would in effect increase the number of uninsured in California. Denying comprehensive health care to those eligible for Medi-Cal - children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities - would not stop them from needing health care services. Uninsured individuals are more likely to delay seeking treatment for potentially serious conditions, ultimately receiving care that is more costly and less effective. California will continue to pay for these more expensive emergency services through the emergency Medi-Cal program. The long-term ramifications of these proposals would result in approximately 2 million Californians, half of them children, becoming uninsured.

- *Eliminate Medi-Cal for Newly Qualified Legal Immigrants and those Permanently Residing Under Color of Law*: California has provided full-scope Medi-Cal to qualified legal immigrants who have been in the country for fewer than 5 years, as well as PRUCOL immigrants, which includes survivors of trafficking and domestic violence who are filing for naturalization. Approximately 65,600 Californians would no longer receive primary health care and would be pushed into emergency-only services. This would exclude pregnant women and those under 20 years of age.

- *Eliminate Funding for Various Community Clinic Programs*: This would eliminate funding for the Seasonal and Agricultural Migratory Workers, Expanded Access to Primary Care, among others. California's community clinics provide the only point of access to health services for many migrant and seasonal workers, and turn away no one.