

HHS Network CA:
SUMMER OF ACTION
For a Family Recovery Budget

This July, We Need a Wave of Thousands of Calls to our State Leaders to Pass a Family Recovery Budget!

What?

Plan an event of any kind and any size that will 1) educate community members about the state budget and 2) inspire people to take action – especially calling legislators and the Governor in support of jobs, health & human services, and targeted revenues!

How?

Two things unite all the different budget actions taking place all across the State this July and all summer long:

1. Our **ASK** -- for a Family Recovery Budget that creates Jobs, protects Health & Human Services, and includes Targeted Revenues
AND
2. Our **CALL TO ACTION** – Call the Governor, your State Senator, and your Assemblymember!

Why?

Actions and calls are critical to prevent the Governor's *cuts-only* proposal to close our \$20 billion shortfall, which would be disastrous for families, our economy, and our State.

It's also urgent -- as the July 1 deadline passes and the state stops paying key contractors like child care centers and other service providers -- that we continue to press for a Family Recovery Budget that helps families and our economy get back on track. A quick budget must also be a smart budget, with no secret deals.

How Can Individuals and Groups Join in the Summer of Action?

STEP 1: Decide on Your Action

Here are some ideas for your Summer Action. Pick which of these four kinds of events best fits your community and your capacity, and which will most inspire people to Call their legislators. (See the box on the other side for specific examples of what's already in the works for Summer of Action 2010!)

1. **Visit to your legislator's district office with a group of constituents, scheduled or drop-in.**
2. **Tabling at a community event with visibility, like farmer's market, coffee hours at places of worship, and 4th of July parades.**
3. **March, rally, or – get creative! -- street theatre**
4. **Or, bring a group to Sacramento to keep our voice strong at the Capitol****

*** If instead of local action you can bring a group to Sacramento in July, please contact HHS Network field co-leads Kim Kruckel at kkruckel@communitychange.org or Jessica Rothaar at jessicar@health-access.org to get on our July calendar for action at the Capitol!*

REAL examples from around the state for Summer of Action -- try these, or come up with your own!

- **Farmers' Market Outreach** –table at local Farmer's Markets in the Central Valley, and asked shoppers to call legislators. *California Alliance of Retired Americans*
- **Caravans to legislators' district offices** –organize caravans of people to drive to two or three legislators' offices in a morning. *California Partnership*
- **Fourth of July Independence parade** – march in local parades, or join the on-lookers, and pass out flyers asking people to call-in. It's patriotic to call your legislators! *California Federation of Independent Living Centers*
- **Child Care and Preschools** – hold mini-meetings and call-in sessions at child care centers as parents are picking up kids at end of day. *California Child Care Resource & Referral network.*
- **Big Red Phone Booth** – from a large cardboard box, make a British- style phone booth for your agency or a town square, and have people step inside to call their legislators. Bring your cell phones! *Chico Peace and Justice Center.*
- **Budget Bake Sale** – hold a “budget bake sale” and sell items like “penny-wise/pound-foolish cake” and “upside down priorities cake”; pass our flyers on the budget and ask for calls; donate any money raised to a local group of your choice *California Hunger Action Coalition*
- **Rally with your Legislator (if they are on the side of the Family Recovery Budget!)** People like to see that many of our leaders do support us – join them at one of their events, or ask them to join in an event you organize. Make calls to a different legislator while you're together! *Parent Voices.*
- **Map out your community's losses due to corporate tax breaks.** Using a google map, you can superimpose commercial properties that have been sold and not reassessed, oil companies that should be paying a tax, and corporations that have benefited from tax loopholes, as well as small business and non-profit job loss. Take a march past those locations. See the hhsnetworkca.org website for an example and details. *Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment*

STEP 2: GET READY

As you decide on your action, organize the logistics, and insure the turn-out you need, here's how to connect to the statewide Summer of Action for a Family Recovery Budget:

1. Most importantly, make Call-in flyers (see website for samples) – **the key ACTION of all events!**
2. Check our website toolkit for all sample materials -- including call-in flyers, talking points, press advisories, stickers, fact sheets, and more – with our common **ASK: We need a Family Recovery Budget for Jobs, Safety Net, and Revenues.**
3. Tell us about your event BEFORE it happens! Email brice@fcpccommunications.com to post your event on our statewide maps of the Summer of Action at www.hhsnetworkca.org.
4. Tell us about your event AFTER it happens! Take pictures and video, and send to us with a short email report. We'll post on our website and facebook page, to help your community view their progress and stay in touch.

STEP 3: THANKS!

Throughout the summer, keep up-to-date with the budget and with HHS Network CA by joining our email list and checking our website! (You can also become a fan on Facebook and follow us on Twitter)

www.hhsnetworkca.org