



Children's Defense Fund California

# Child Defender

## A Call to Action



### Special Budget Edition

### Urgent Action Needed: Children & Families Crippled by California Budget Cuts!

Yesterday, Governor Schwarzenegger released a revised budget proposal, known as the "May Revise," that would make devastating cuts to programs and services that are critical to the health and well-being of California children. These proposals in the Governor's second budget are even *more harmful* and affect thousands more children than the severe cuts proposed in January, and could be felt by children and families as early as this summer.



If implemented, the Governor's "May Revise" budget would:

- Impose new, draconian policies in the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs that would result in **more than 500,000 California children losing their health coverage** over the next two years — increasing the number of uninsured children in California by 70%.
- Cut CalWORKs program grants for a reduction of \$108.2 million. This is in addition to the \$432.6 million CalWORKs slashing proposed in January, a policy that will **eliminate cash assistance for 200,000 children**.
- Cut \$84 million from the child welfare services budget, **limiting counties' ability to ensure the safety and well-being of the more than 70,000 California children in foster care**.
- **Reduce state funding for child care and development programs** in 2008-09 and slash the maximum amount that certain child care providers could be paid.
- Maintain the Governor's proposed across-the-board **reductions for a number of programs that assist children and families**, including the Child Welfare Services Program, the Foster Care Program, the Adoption Assistance Program, and the California Food Assistance Program.

**Step Up and Take Action Today:** Senate and Assembly committees will meet to consider these harmful cuts starting next week! It is critical that you make your voice heard as soon as possible—before your member votes to cut programs critical to California children! [Take 5 minutes now and email your state elected officials](#) and tell them not to balance the budget on the backs of our children. You can help stop these devastating cuts to critical programs and services and urge your California legislators to make better choices for children this budget cycle.

In a state with the eighth largest economy in the world, it is a moral outrage that cuts to foster care, health care coverage, and cash assistance for children are even being considered. Our elected officials need to hear from you that this budget, with such drastic cuts to California's children, is simply unconscionable. We must help our leaders recognize that every step we take to improve the lives of children improves the life of all Californians today and in the future.

## Get Involved to Protect California Children

### Learn More About the California Budget:

- [CDF-California newly revamped website](#) has additional information on the California Budget
- [Latino Coalition for a Healthy California](#) recently released a report on how the budget revisions will impact Latino health.
- [California Budget Project](#) provides facts and updates on the budget process.

### Come Out and Show Your Support:

#### Sacramento

- Disability Action Coalition's "[Cuts No More](#)" 2008 Disability Capitol Action Day, Thursday May 15, 2008
- Campaign for Quality Education's [Rally Against Cuts to Education](#), Thursday May 15, 2008, 11 a.m.

#### Northern California

- [Latino Coalition for a Healthy California's](#) Statewide Conference Call, May 16, 2008, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Latino health advocates will discuss the proposed cuts and develop an advocacy strategy for the Latino community. Free call-in number: 1 (508) 995-6619, Passcode: 652#.
- Contra Costa Together Budget Coalition's next meeting is May 22, 2008 at 10 a.m., Mount Diablo Education Association, 2255 Contra Costa Blvd., Ste. 202, Pleasant Hill

#### Southern California

- Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice's [Orange County Rally & March](#) (pdf) where parents, teachers, public employees, community members, and people of faith will say no to budget cuts that effect the poor and needy in Orange County, May 15, 2008 at 4 p.m.

Let us know about your actions and events! Email your event info and website to [cdfca@cdfca.org](mailto:cdfca@cdfca.org) for an opportunity to have the info posted on [cdfca.org](http://cdfca.org).

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