



GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED 2010-11 BUDGET: COUNTIES RESPOND

Governor's Proposals Could Shift \$200 Million in Costs to Counties as General Relief Cases Rise

California's counties will bear the potentially large fiscal impact – up to \$200 million a year – of the Governor's proposals to eliminate three immigrant assistance programs in 2010-11. Once the programs – CAPI, CFAP, and CalWORKs for recent non-citizen legal immigrants – are eliminated, former recipients, many of whom are seniors and/or disabled, will turn to the last aid available: County General Relief/ General Assistance.

Using data from the Department of Social Services on the number of cases and statewide average grant amount for November 2009, CSAC estimates that the Governor's proposals to eliminate CAPI, CFAP, and CalWORKs benefits for recent immigrants could result in 72,144 new General Relief and General Assistance cases. With the average monthly grant of \$232, these cuts could cost counties nearly \$17 million a month and \$200 million a year – a direct cost shift to counties almost equivalent to the estimated savings for the state.

Each county is solely responsible for funding General Assistance or General Relief benefits. The program is designed to provide support to indigent adults who are not supported by their own means, other public funds, or assistance programs. Grants include cash aid and may include transportation and housing vouchers, gift cards and/or donations of needed supplies such as clothing and toiletries.

Governor's Budget Proposals

Program	Proposed Cut	Population	Estimated State Savings	Number of Recipients
Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)	Eliminate the program	Aged, blind, and disabled immigrants	\$107.3 million GF	10,886
California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)	Eliminate the program	Aged, blind, and disabled immigrants	\$56.2 million	37,258
CalWORKs for Legal Immigrants	Eliminate CalWORKs Grants for Recent Non-Citizen Legal Immigrants	All non-citizen legal immigrants who have been in the U.S. less than five years	\$57.6 million	24,000
TOTALS			\$221 million	72,144 recipients

All proposals assume an effective date of June 1, 2010, but estimated state savings are listed only for the 2010-11 fiscal year.

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NOTES

Source: General Relief/General Assistance Data, November 2009; California Department of Social Services; <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/PG343.htm>

GENERAL RELIEF/GENERAL ASSISTANCE: County General Assistance or General Relief is designed to provide relief and support to indigent adults who are not supported by their own means, other public funds, or assistance programs. Each county's GA program is established by the Board of Supervisors, and benefits, payment levels, number of recipients, and eligibility requirements vary among each of California's 58 counties. Each county is solely responsible for funding General Assistance or General Relief benefits.

CAPI: Created in 1997, the CAPI assists aged, blind, and disabled people who do not qualify for federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) because of their immigration status.

CFAP: Created in 1997, the CFAP provides state-funded food stamp benefits to qualified non-citizens who are not eligible for federal food stamp benefits.

CalWORKs: The Governor's proposed cut would affect non-citizen legal immigrants who have been in the U.S. less than five years, including the following individuals: Parolees; Conditional Entrants; Legal Permanent Residents; Permanently Residing in the U.S. Under Color of Law (PRUCOL); and Battered Non-citizens.