



# County of San Diego

February 12, 2009

Dear San Diego County Community Leader:

The State of California intends to withhold cash payments to California counties, including San Diego County, that are needed to operate state and federal human services programs.

The State Controller has announced cash deferrals to human services programs in all counties effective February 1<sup>st</sup>. This means that beginning in March 2009, assistance payments to low income and vulnerable populations may be reduced, and funds necessary to operate the programs will be limited. Additionally, the Administration and Legislature may turn to deferral of payments to compensate for their inability to balance their budget - there have been discussions of an eight-month deferral of payments.

Deferral of human services payments comes at the worst possible time, with rising caseloads and unprecedented demand for services. We estimate nearly \$12 million in client-assistance payments will be deferred for the month of March and if deferred for eight months, a total of \$96 million. Counties simply do not have the means to cover this large and unexpected shortfall, and still maintain the same level of services to needy children and families.

Presently, counties are contemplating their options in addressing this serious financial crisis. We are told some counties will not be able to survive the proposed deferrals and will be required to resort to layoffs, shutting down programs and ending client-assistance payments.

The impact on our San Diego region will be far reaching. The most vulnerable and needy children and families who live and work in our community will suffer severely at the hands of the State:

- 67,000 CalWORKs recipients (of which 52,400 are children) who rely on cash assistance for their basic needs will find it hard to pay for rent, utilities and child care, and face eviction and job loss.
- 4,200 foster children in family foster homes, group homes and kinship could be returned to institutional care or face a disruption in their current stable placements; and
- 6,800 adopted children would receive less financial support. In the future parents considering adoption of special children in the foster care system may be unwilling to make the commitment without reliable financial supports.

In addition, the State of California's inaction may impair the county's ability to process new applications, as well as, process continuing eligibility of those needing our services.

Please contact Governor Schwarzenegger, Controller John Chiang and your representatives in both the state Senate and Assembly and urge them to reach a resolution that would result in sufficient funds for these critical human services programs.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Website: <http://gov.ca.gov>  
Sacramento Number: 916-445-2841  
Local Number: 619-525-4641

Controller John Chiang

Website: <http://www.sco.ca.gov>  
Sacramento Number: 916-445-3028  
Local Number: None

You can find your state representatives on the internet by entering your address on this page:

[Find Your California State Legislature Representatives](#)

<u>State Senate</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Local Number</u>	<u>Sacramento</u>
Website for all State Senators: <a href="http://www.sen.ca.gov">www.sen.ca.gov</a>			
36 <sup>th</sup> District	Dennis Hollingsworth	619-596-3136	916-651-4036
38 <sup>th</sup> District	Mark Wyland	760-931-2455	916-445-3731
39 <sup>th</sup> District	Christine Kehoe	619-645-3133	916-651-4039
40 <sup>th</sup> District	Denise Moreno Ducheny	619-409-7690	916-651-4040

<u>State Assembly</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Local Number</u>	<u>Sacramento</u>
Website for all State Assembly Members : <a href="http://www.assembly.ca.gov">www.assembly.ca.gov</a>			
66 <sup>th</sup> District	Kevin Jeffries	951-894-1232	916-319-2066
73 <sup>rd</sup> District	Diane L. Harkey	760-757-8084	916-319-2073
74 <sup>th</sup> District	Martin Garrick	760-929-7998	916-319-2074
75 <sup>th</sup> District	Nathan Fletcher	858-689-6290	916-319-2075
76 <sup>th</sup> District	Lori Saldaña	619-645-3090	916-319-2076
77 <sup>th</sup> District	Joel Anderson	619-441-2322	916-319-2077