



May 29, 2018

Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California

Honorable Toni Atkins
President pro Tempore, California State Senate

Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly

RE: Put us on a Budget Path to End Childhood Deep Poverty for CalWORKs Families

Dear Governor Brown, Pro Tem Atkins and Speaker Rendon,

Our organizations are writing to urge you to end childhood deep poverty in the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program in the final 2018-19 budget. We appreciate the Senate's action to increase CalWORKs grants to keep children out of deep poverty by 2021-22, and we request that plan be adopted as part of the final budget.

CalWORKs grants are simply too low to support the healthy growth and development of our state's poorest children. The current maximum CalWORKs grant of \$714 for a family of three is 41 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). When children live in deep poverty, which is defined as below 50 percent of the FPL, they endure hardships that impair their ability to learn, develop and thrive during childhood and throughout their lifetime. Even a short amount of time spent in deep poverty can derail a child emotionally, psychologically, physically, and educationally for a much longer time period.

For more information, please refer to our [February 14, 2018 letter to budget and legislative leaders](#).

Please protect the future opportunities of our state's poorest children by passing a budget that adequately funds CalWORKs grants at a level that ensures no child in a CalWORKs family lives in deep poverty.

Signed,

Alameda County Community Food Bank
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Baby2Baby
Berkeley Law Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice
Black Women for Wellness
California Alternative Payment Program Association
California Asset Building Coalition
California Association of Food Banks
California Catholic Conference
California Food Policy Advocates
California Hunger Action Coalition
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Church Impact
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)
California Partnership
Californians for Disability Rights Inc.
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
Children's Defense Fund – California
Children's Law Center of California
Children Now
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Courage Campaign
Crystal Stairs
Dolores Huerta Foundation
Equal Rights Advocates
First 5 Association of California
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
Food for People

Friends Committee on Legislation of California
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Jewish Public Affairs Committee
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
League of Women Voters of California
Lincoln Families
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California
National Association of Social Workers – California Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women-California
Rabbi Suzanne Singer
River City Food Bank
Parent Voices California
PolicyLink
Public Counsel
SEIU California
Stronger California Advocates Network
St. Anthony's Foundation
Tandem Partners in Early Learning
Universal Income Project
Voices for Progress
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Women's Foundation of California

CC: Honorable Holly Mitchell, California State Senate, Chair of Budget Committee
Honorable Phil Ting, California State Assembly, Chair of Budget Committee
Honorable Dr. Richard Pan, California State Senate, Chair of Budget Subcommittee 3
Honorable Dr. Joaquin Arambula, California State Assembly, Chair of Budget
Subcommittee 1
Members of the California Senate Budget Committee
Members of the California Assembly Budget Committee
Mr. Will Lightbourne, Director of the California Department of Social Services
Ms. Donna Campbell, Secretary, Office of Governor Jerry Brown