



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 12, 2007

Contact: Leticia Alejandrez, Executive Director  
(916) 825-6104 Phone  
Susan Kaplan, Board President  
(818) 517-9771 Phone  
[www.californiafamilyresource.org](http://www.californiafamilyresource.org)

**GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET GOOD FOR FAMILY HEALTH,  
BAD FOR FAMILY STABILITY**

**Sacramento** – The California Family Resource Association today announced its review of Governor Schwarzenegger's budget and its collective effect on California families. CFRA applauds the Governor's efforts to provide health coverage to all Californians as well as his Cost of Living Adjustment to the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Program (SSI/SSP).

However, the Governor's proposed cuts for children on CalWORKs and suspension of foster youth COLA erode basic family safety nets that are the foundation of self-sufficiency for California's most vulnerable families.

"Taken in its entirety, the Governor's budget proposal weakens the very programs that help families help themselves," said Susan Kaplan, CFRA's Board President.

"CFRA will work with the Governor, the Legislature, and our allies to ensure California's budget maintains the effective resources needed to get families back on their feet and on the road to family economic success."

CFRA opposes several critical elements of the Governor's budget:

- Full-family sanctions for CalWORKs families. CalWORKs families on sanction status for over 90 days would lose the child portions of the grant. The proposed changes could eliminate all financial assistance to over 190,000 children.
- Limits to child-only CalWORKs cases to 60 total months of CalWORKs benefits. Under current law, children can still receive assistance even if their parents are not eligible.
- Freezing AFDC-Foster Care rates for group homes, foster family agencies (FFA), county licensed foster homes and kin caring for the children of other family members. Freeze would result in a purchasing power decrease of 19%-24%.

“Families are one of California’s greatest assets. California’s most vulnerable families should not bear the burden of the state’s budget deficit while the Governor proposes early repayments to Wall Street totaling \$600 million. It is in the interest of all Californians to get our most vulnerable families on a path towards self-sufficiency,” said Leticia Alejandre, Executive Director of CFRA. “But the Governor’s budget instead removes those opportunities and leaves families with nowhere to turn, but to underfunded community-based family-serving organizations.”

“The message we are sending to the Governor is quite clear: You cannot expect families to become self-sufficient by removing the basic safety net that provides for family stability,” concluded Alejandre.

California Family Resource Association is a statewide membership association of organizations and individuals working to build vibrant communities that put children and families first. Founded in 2005, CFRA advocates for policies, programs, and resources that help families and communities to thrive and succeed. CFRA also works to build the capacity of its member organizations and builds networks that link people and resources. CFRA’s policy focus is in the area of family economic success, child welfare, mental health, and school readiness.

###