

BUDGET CUTS PROTEST! COME TO PROTEST ON STREET AND MAKE BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON IMPACT OF BUDGET CUTS TO SENIORS, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS, FAMILIES, WORKERS & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & PROVIDERS, ON JULY 11TH 9 AM , CALIFORNIA OLMSTEAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY SECRETARY KIM BELSHE, 1500 CAPITOL AVENUE (CORNER OF 15th STREET), DEPT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES BUILDING (public meeting starts at 10 AM - protest on street begins at 9 AM) See CDCAN website and Alert for more details. Your opportunity to speak and be visible (you can also participate by toll free phone line) More info: martyomoto@rcip.com

CALIFORNIA BUDGET CRISIS

Budget Panel Approves Eliminating 2009 SSI/SSP State Cost of Living - SSI/SSP Program Target of Cuts 15 Times Since 1991 *Major Impact to Lowest Income People With Disabilities, Blind, Seniors*

SACRAMENTO (CDCAN) - The Budget Conference Committee, chaired by Sen. Denise Ducheny (Democrat - San Diego, 40th District) voted Monday evening (July 7) to eliminate the State funded cost of living money due on June 1, 2009 for the SSI/SSP (Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Payment) grants for hundreds of thousands of low income people with disabilities, seniors and the blind. [See separate CDCAN report for details on other budget issues, cuts and status]

If approved by the full Legislature and signed by the Governor as part of the budget - whenever a budget is eventually passed this year - it will mean that the State funded cost of living increase for the SSI/SSP grants would have been suspended or eliminated for 7 consecutive years.

1.3 Million People With Disabilities, Seniors, the Blind On SSI/SSP

Close to 1.3 million low income people with disabilities (including those with developmental disabilities), seniors and persons who are blind receive SSI/SSP grants to provide critical funding for food and housing and other basic needs.

The SSI/SSP program has been the target of cuts, suspensions and delays of cost of living 15 times since 1991. Nearly all the people on the SSI/SSP program also require other services, including Medi-Cal or other critical community-based services and supports, such as senior programs, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), regional center funded community-based services including independent and supported living.

Budget Conference Committee Vote 6 to 0

The motion to approve the action was made by Sen. Bob Dutton (Republican - Inland Empire, 31st District) and approved by the 6 member conference committee without opposition.

With the Budget Conference Committee last week restoring some major cuts to Medi-Cal, Multipurpose Senior Services Program, which still require approval of the full Legislature, Sen. Ducheny said they were "reluctantly" approving the action to eliminate the 2009 State funded cost of living increase for SSI/SSP.

While no action on the budget is final until a budget is actually passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, the actions on cutting the cost of living for the State funded portion of the SSI/SSP grants is not likely to change, given the still huge budget deficit that remains.

CDCAN VOTE RECORD REPORT

Budget Conference Committee

Action 07/07/08: Approve suspending (eliminating) the cost of living due June 1, 2009 for the state funded portion (SSP) of the SSI/SSP grants

YES Votes (6)

Democrats (4): *Sen. Denise Ducheny and Sen. Mike Machado, Assemblymembers John Laird and Mark Leno*

Republicans (2): *Sen. Bob Dutton and Assemblymember Roger Niello*

NO Votes (0): -none-

Legislature Previously Approved 2008 SSP Cost of Living Suspension

* The Legislature in February previously approved suspending the cost of living money for the SSP part of the SSI/SSP grant from June 1, 2008 to October 1, 2008, which the Governor approved.

* Since then, in May, the Legislature approved extending that suspension in 2008 for the entire year through May 31, 2008.

Legislature Earlier Rejected Other SSI/SSP & CAPI Cuts

* Legislature previously rejected Governor's proposal to eliminate the federal cost of living for SSI scheduled for January 1, 2009.

* Legislature previously in May rejected Governor's proposal to eliminate the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) that provides state funded grants similar to SSP for legal immigrants with disabilities, aged or who are blind and do not qualify for SSI/SSP.

* Neither action however is not final until the State Budget for 2008-2009 is passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

Impact of Suspension of State Cost of Living on SSI/SSP Grants

The SSI/SSP grant is composed of two parts - one federally funded (SSI) and the other state funded (SSP), administered by the federal Social Security Administration and overseen in California by the Department of Social Services.

Currently, individuals on SSI/SSP receive up to \$870 per month and couples receive \$1,524 per month, which reflects a cost of living increase from the federal government for the SSI part of the grant, that took effect January 1, 2008.

If Legislature gives, as expected, final approval of the cost of living suspensions covering October 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009 (they previously approved suspension from June 1, 2008 through September 31, 2008) and June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010, the monthly grant levels would be:

* INDIVIDUALS: \$885 per month by June 2009 which would include the federal cost of living increase still scheduled for January 1, 2009, but overall, \$50 less per month, due to the loss of the State funded cost of living money.

* COUPLES: \$1,547 per month by June 2009, which would include the federal cost of living increase still scheduled for January 1, 2009, but overall, \$93 lower per month, due to loss of the State funded cost of living increase.

Major Decline In Grant Levels Since 1990 Resulting From Suspensions

The California Budget Project estimated that if the State funded cost of living increases are suspended for the rest of 2008 (October 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009) and all of 2009 (June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010) it will mean that SSI/SSP grants for individuals would be 22.6% lower on June 1, 2009 than if State and federal cost of living increases had been provided every year since 1990.

Other programs - including CalWORKS, have been hit hard over the years with suspensions of cost of living increases, and many community-based programs critical to children and adults with disabilities, mental health needs and seniors, including Medi-Cal, have been hit with rate reductions and freezes.

Next Steps

* The action last night by the Budget Conference Committee (and the action the Legislature took in May) will be part of the full State Budget for 2008-2009, that the Legislature and Governor must still approve.

* The Budget Conference Committee, composed of 3 members from the Assembly and 3 members from the State Senate, is likely to finish up its work today (July 8).

* The budget fight then goes back to the floors of both houses where the leadership will try to find agreement on major budget issues and resolve a still huge budget gap.

* The Legislature is still far apart in resolving differences on the State Budget for 2008-2009, now 8 days late, with no agreement in sight.

CDCAN SUMMARY OF CUTS TO SSI/SSP

* Suspension of the State funded cost of living for SSI/SSP for 2009 (through May 31, 2010) and the rest of 2008 would mean 7 consecutive years that the State suspended the cost of living for the SSP (state funded) portion of the SSI/SSP grants.

* Suspension of the State funded cost of living for SSI/SSP for 2009 (through May 31, 2010) and the rest of 2008 also means that California will have targeted

the State funded cost of living for SSI/SSP grants with suspensions and outright reductions of grant levels 15 out of 19 years, since 1991.

* Following is a summary of the cuts and suspension to the SSI/SSP grants, compiled by CDCAN using information and reports from the Department of Social Services, the Department of Finance and the Legislature:

2009 [final approval pending]

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living due June 1, 2009 through 05/31/10) **[action still needs final approval of full Legislature and Governor]**

* SSI - cost of living still scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2009

2008

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living due October 1, 2008 through following 5/31/09) **[action still needs final approval of full Legislature and Governor]**

* SSI cost of living due January 1, 2008 went into effect

Note:

The Legislature as part of the 2007 State Budget, suspended for five months, the State funded cost of living for SSI/SSP originally scheduled for January 1, 2008 by moving back the effective date permanently to June 1 each year. In February this year, as part of the special session, the Legislature passed (and Governor signed into law) delaying the cost of living due June 1, 2008 until October 1, 2008.

Since then, in May, the Legislature took action that further extends the suspension of the SSP cost of living from October 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009. That action - and the action taken Monday evening still needs final approval of the Legislature and Governor.

2007:

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living due January 1, 2007 for entire year (through 12/31)

* SSI cost of living went into effect January 1, 2007

2006

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living due January 1, 2006 for entire year (through 12/31)

* SSI - **WITHHELD** cost of living due January 1, 2006, delayed for 3 months (April 1, 2006)

2005

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living due January 1, 2005 for 3 months, delayed until 4/1/05.

* SSI cost of living went into effect January 1, 2005

2004

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living due January 1, 2004 for entire year (through 12/31).

* SSI cost of living went into effect January 1, 2004 (increase of 2.1%)

2003

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living due January 1, 2003, delayed until 6/1/03.

* SSI cost of living went into effect January 1, 2003 (increase of 1.40%)

2002

* SSI/SSP cost of living effective January 1, 2002 (combined increase of 5.31%)

2001

* SSI/SSP cost of living went into effect January 1, 2001 (combined increase of 2.96%)

2000

* SSP and SSI cost of living went into effect January 1, 2000 (combined increase of 2.4%)

1999

* SSP cost of living went into effect January 1, 1999 (increase of 2.84%)

* SSI cost of living went into effect January 1, 1999 (increase of 1.3%)

1998

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living due January 1, 1998

* SSI - cost of living went into effect January 1, 1998 (increase of 2.1%)

1997

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living and continued grant reduction of 4.9% passed in December 1995, effective through November 1997. SSI/SSP grant level reduction of 4.9% was restored in November 1997.

* SSI cost of living went into effect January 1, 1997 (increase of 2.9%)

1996

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living and continued grant reduction passed in December 1995 continues through all of 1996

* SSI cost of living went into effect January 1, 1996 (increase of 2.6%)

1995

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living and continued grant reduction effective December 1995 through November 1997

* SSI cost of living increase went into effect January 1, 1995 (increase of 2.8%)

1994

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** cost of living - continued 2.7% SSP grant level reduction through June 30, 1994.

* SSI - **ELIMINATED** cost of living due January 1, 1994 for entire year (increase would have been about 3.0%%) [exempted people who could not prepare their own meals or lived in out of home care]

1993

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living and reduced grant level by 2.7% effective September 1, 1993

* SSI - cost of living increase went into effect January 1, 1993 (increase was 3.0%)

1992

* SSI/SSP - **SUSPENDED** State funded cost of living and reduced SSI/SSP grant level by 5.8% (effective November 1992 through June 1996)

1991

* SSP - **SUSPENDED** cost of living

URGENT!!!!

PLEASE HELP CDCAN CONTINUE ITS WORK!!!

Townhall Telemeetings, reports and alerts and other activities cannot continue without your help!

CDCAN Disability Rights News Reports, Telemeetings & other Events
Advocacy Without Borders - ONE Community: