



## COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

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# CWDA

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### **Counties Praise Governor's Pharmacy Coverage Decision**

#### *Governor's Action Ensures Coverage for Neediest Californians*

SACRAMENTO – County human services agencies praised the Schwarzenegger Administration today for its decision to provide emergency funding for prescription drugs for individuals not being adequately served by the Medicare Part D program.

"Since January 1, counties have been receiving calls from Medi-Cal beneficiaries who should have been shifted to Part D but find themselves without coverage when they are standing at a pharmacy counter," said Frank Mecca, Executive Director of the County Welfare Directors Association of California.

"We commend Governor Schwarzenegger for recognizing the life-threatening situation that hundreds of thousands of vulnerable, low-income California residents have been placed in as a result of the federal implementation problems."

The Governor on Thursday directed the California Department of Health Services to provide temporary emergency coverage for beneficiaries who have been unable to obtain them through their Medicare coverage. He also called on the federal government to reimburse California for the cost of this emergency coverage.

"We agree with the Governor's assertion that pharmacy coverage for these beneficiaries is ultimately the federal government's responsibility," Mecca said. "Nonetheless, we applaud his decision to step in and ensure that prescriptions are available in the meantime."

CWDA is a non-profit association representing the human service directors from each of California's 58 counties. The Association's mission is to promote a human services system that encourages self-sufficiency of families and communities and protects vulnerable children and adults from abuse and neglect.

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