



CWDA

**Media Advisory**

For immediate release: November 2, 2011

Contact: Sarah Jimenez (916) 443-1749

***Children Suffering Most in California Recession***  
*Assembly Subcommittee to Hear about Critical Role of CalWORKs in Helping Children and Families, Impact of Budget Cuts and Great Recession*

**SACRAMENTO** – With more than 20 percent of California children living in poverty, investing in and protecting CalWORKs is an essential part of helping children and their families, particularly in the midst of the Great Recession, Assembly Budget Subcommittee members will hear during a hearing Thursday at the State Capitol.

For more than a decade, CalWORKs has been California's most powerful response to helping children and families in need. The value of CalWORKs has become even more apparent in an economic crisis like the one California is still suffering through:

- As of July 2011, more than 1.4 million individuals were receiving CalWORKs support, including more than 1.1 million children, according to the California Department of Social Services.
- In Sacramento County, 1 in 4 county residents is served by the county's welfare agency.

Three panels will discuss the role of CalWORKs in helping low-income California families and their children, the constraints placed on families in light of the current economy and Great Recession, and how the program has been changed, with benefits and services markedly reduced over the past several years because of budget cuts.

CalWORKs was designed in 1997 on a bipartisan basis to get people back to work and help low-income children. Tragically, the Great Recession and cuts and policy changes to the program in recent years have meant more families, particularly children, are struggling, and counties ability to move people from welfare to work activities has been significantly eroded. In Los Angeles County, the number of homeless CalWORKs families increased 98 percent between July 2006 and August 2011.

**What:** Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 Hearing  
Chaired by Assembly Member Holly Mitchell  
*CalWORKs: Program Overview, Recipients and Current Status*

**When & Where:** Thursday, November 3, 2011, 1:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 126 or [www.calchannel.com](http://www.calchannel.com)

**Who:**  
Bruce Wagstaff, Agency Administrator  
County of Sacramento Countywide Services Agency

Phil Ansell, Acting Chief Deputy Director,  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services

**Hearing agenda and background information:**  
[www.assembly.ca.gov/subcommittee.asp?subcommittee=1](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/subcommittee.asp?subcommittee=1)

The County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA) is a nonprofit 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.

###