



## **Budget Agreement Preserves Vital Safety Net for Most Vulnerable Californians**

Sacramento, CA – The County Welfare Directors Association of California released the following statement today from Executive Director Frank J. Mecca:

“Governor Newsom and the Legislature have come together to avoid the deepest cuts to the vital safety net programs that Californians are counting on as they face the continued, dual threats of COVID-19 and the deep recession caused by the economic shutdown.

“The budget maintains essential assistance including CalWORKs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal that vulnerable children, adults and families are counting on to get through this crisis and that will help to prevent more homelessness and hunger.

“CWDA is incredibly relieved that the budget protects abused and neglected children and adults, for whom our state bears the ultimate responsibility. The budget dedicates \$1 billion in state funds to backfill a severe drop in local realignment funds estimated at \$3.4 billion in total. While this backfill won’t forestall all of the cuts that may occur as a result of the recession, it will prevent the outright decimation of county-administered Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services programs.

“Deep revenue reductions and steep increases in demand for these and other programs are straining counties’ capacity. The budget agreement will help us navigate this moment and preserve baseline services to our communities in their time of greatest need.

“While this budget affords the most vulnerable Californians crucially needed support, it still relies in large part on federal support. CWDA will continue to pursue the federal dollars California needs to maintain our commitments to the families, children and adults – all of whom need a robust safety net now more than ever.”

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