



County Welfare Directors Association of California

925 L Street, Suite 350, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 443-1749

Frank J. Mecca, Executive Director

CWDA

Washington, DC Office
Tom Joseph
Waterman & Associates
900 Second Street NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 898-1444
tj@wafed.com

To: County Welfare Directors Association of California

From: Tom Joseph, Director, CWDA Washington, D.C. Office

Date: January 10, 2012

Re: Federal Update

Congress Continues Its Recess: Congress is in pro-forma session until later this month, so Capitol Hill remains quiet. One of the first federal items in this year will be the President's State of the Union address to Congress on January 24.

The Administration's proposed budget for FFY 2013 will be sent to the Hill on February 6.

During the next two months, Democratic and Republican leaders and the White House will once again face tough negotiations on extending the payroll tax cut, unemployment insurance benefits and other tax and policy issues which expire February 29. In that mix is the extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

TANF Reauthorization: Adopted on December 23, 2011, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (HR 3765; PL 112-78), contains a provision extending TANF through February 29, 2012 when all other provisions in the short-term Act expire.

During the week previous, the House adopted by voice vote an extension through September 30, 2012, but the Senate did not consider the measure. Under the House bill (HR 3659), a provision was added to require a state to have policies and practices in its state plan to prevent electronic benefit transfer transactions in adult entertainment venues, including liquor stores and gaming facilities. The provision is consistent with California's policies. No further changes are anticipated for California to comply with the provision.

There is no information at this stage on how the reauthorization will proceed in the next month and a half. What is known is that there is no time legislatively to craft a more sweeping reauthorization bill before the end of February.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012 Spending: Adopted on the day it adjourned for the year, the House and Senate passed a massive spending bill (HR 2055; PL 112-74) for all federal departments and programs through the end of the fiscal year. Included in the measure was funding for programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. In general, most program funding was frozen at last year's levels. New programs did not receive funding, such as the Elder Justice Act (EJA). The EJA would provide federal assistance for local adult protective services programs.