



11-2008

Budget Cuts Proposed for Special November Session: The Bad, the Bad and the Ugly

The Special Session of the Legislature has begun and must end by 11/30; it is understood that these proposals will be negotiated/voted upon by 11/23 before the Thanksgiving holiday. This current year's deficit is \$11.2 billion. The Governor is proposing \$4.5 billion in budget cuts and \$4.5 billion in new revenues. Education and Health & Human Services take heavy proposed cuts. For the name of your Assembly Member and Senator, see <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html> to let them know you oppose these cuts!

Medi-Cal

1. **Reduce "optional" benefits.** These are benefits that states are not required to provide, not that the benefits are optional to health. Some 2.5 million adults would be impacted. These benefits are:

Adult dental	Chiropractic	Speech therapy	Podiatry	Psychology
Acupuncture	Audiology	Optometry/optometrists, including lab services		
			General Fund Savings	
			\$ 29.7 million 2008/09	
			\$144.4 million 2009/10	

2. **Limit benefits for new immigrants** (here less than 5 years) to the same level as undocumented people (maintain emergency services, pregnancy related, long term care in nursing facility, & breast & cervical cancer treatment). 80,600 legal residents affected.

General Fund Savings
\$15.1 million 2008/09
\$73.5 million 2009/10

3. **Reduce income level for new applicants** to Section 1931(b) program (aid code 3N, 3V) to the average amount of 72% of the Federal Poverty Level. A family of three would have to earn less than \$1050/month to qualify for Medi-Cal and work fewer than 100 hrs. At full implementation, 429,000 parents would be affected.

General Fund Savings
\$ 8.6 million 2008/09
\$109 million 2009/10
\$342.5 million 2011/12

4. **Shift federal Safety Net Pool Funding for public hospitals** to parts of California Children's Services Program, Genetically Handicapped Program, Medically Indigent Adult, Long Term care and Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program.

General Fund Savings
\$3.7 million 2008/09
\$54.2 million 2009/10

5. **Monthly redetermination for undocumented immigrants** to access emergency care. 22,000 people affected at full implementation.

General Fund Savings
\$15.1 million 2008/09
\$73.5 million 2009/10

6. **Low income seniors, blind and disabled** to pay more: Couples who earn more than \$1400 per month (now \$1,524) or \$870 for singles (now \$1,097) would have to pay a share of cost for Medi-Cal.

General Fund Savings

\$ 43.8 million 2008/09

\$203.7 million 2009/10

California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

Eliminate food benefits to low income legal noncitizen in July, 2009

General Fund Savings

\$30.3 million 2009/10

Supplemental Security Income/State Supplemental Programs (SSI/SSP)

1. Reduce grants to the federal limit for age/disabled persons; individuals reduced from \$870 a month to \$830 couples reduced from \$1524 per month to \$1407

General Fund Savings

\$348.9 million 2008/09

\$ 1.1 billion 2009/10

2. Eliminate state only program Cash Assistance for Immigrants

General Fund Savings

\$37.8 million 2008/09

\$114.1 million 2009/10

Cal WORKs

1. Limit Safety Net Program to families beyond 60 months if the families meet federal work participation requirements

General Fund Savings

\$ 80.7 million 2008/09

\$ 242 million 2009/10

2. Limit cash assistance to families for child-only benefits, if the families meet federal work participation requirements

General Fund Savings

\$ 76.9 million 2008/09

\$230.2 million 2009/10

3. Reduce CalWORKs grants by 10% to maximum for family of three from \$723 to \$651.

General Fund Savings

\$ 93.2 million 2008/09

\$279.6 million 2009/10

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

1. **Limit services overall to individuals with functional index score of 4 or higher.**

General Fund Savings

\$23.1 million 2008/09

\$71.4 million 2009/10

2. **Limit State Buy Out Program for Medi-Cal share of cost** to persons with the most severe needs. IHSS recipients with average functional index score below 4 would pay more.

General Fund Savings

\$12.3 million 2008/09

\$37 million 2009/10

3. **Lower State participation in IHSS caregiver wages** to state minimum wage plus 60 cents per hour for health benefits.

General Fund Savings

\$82.9 million 2008/09

\$248.8 million 2009/10