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Proposed Cuts Would Disproportionately Affect California's Children and Youth

The Governor has proposed deep cuts to education, health care, and human services programs to help close the state's budget gap. These cuts would have a significant impact on California's children and youth. In addition, many of the proposed cuts would cause the state to lose substantial amounts of federal funding. Specifically, the Governor proposes to:

- **Reduce spending for K-12 education** by an additional \$1.4 billion in 2008-09 and \$3.8 billion in 2009-10, beyond cuts included in the February budget agreement.¹ The new reductions are equivalent to \$448 for each student in California's public schools. School districts would also be allowed to shorten the school year by 7.5 days in each of the next three years.
- **Eliminate Cal Grants.** Approximately 300,000 Californians would lose student aid that enables them to enroll in higher education under this proposal. State savings would total \$288.5 million in 2009-10 and \$577.1 million in 2010-11.
- **Eliminate the Healthy Families Program**, ending health coverage for more than 940,000 children. The state would lose nearly two dollars in federal funds for every dollar cut from the state budget. State savings would total \$366.1 million in 2009-10 and \$495.2 million in 2010-11.
- **Eliminate the CalWORKs Program**, ending cash assistance to more than 1.1 million of the state's most vulnerable children on October 1, 2009 and eliminating CalWORKs child care. The Governor's 2009-10 budget proposal had included funding for child care for more than 180,000 children of CalWORKs participants who are currently employed or in school. The state would save \$1.4 billion in 2009-10 and \$2.4 billion in 2010-11 by eliminating CalWORKs, but lose more than one and a half times that amount in federal funds — \$3.9 billion — in 2010-11, the first full year without CalWORKs.
- **Reduce funding for Child Welfare Services** by \$70.6 million — a 10 percent cut to counties' allocations — and save \$26.8 million by reducing rates for foster care providers and for clothing allowances.
- **Reduce funding for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Services (EPSDT).** Funding would be eliminated for EPSDT mental health programs that were started in 2007-08 or later, saving the state an estimated \$28 million in 2009-10.

Analyses of the county-level impact of selected proposed spending reductions are available at www.cbp.org.

¹ The Department of Finance states that these cuts "would be largely offset" by \$6.1 billion the state is expected to receive under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Department of Finance, *2009-10 May Revision General Fund Proposals* (May 2009), p. 10).