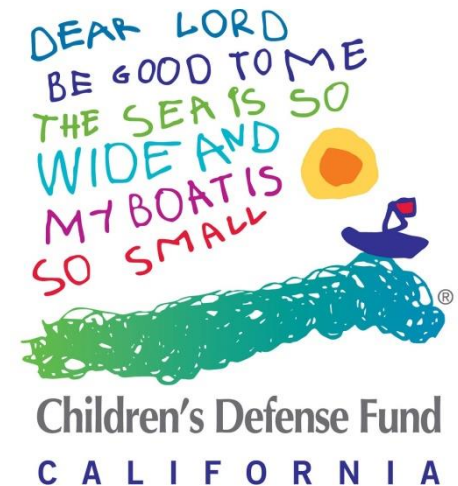




# ENDING DEEP CHILD POVERTY IN CALWORKS

Policy Insights  
March 22, 2018  
Michele Stillwell-Parvensky



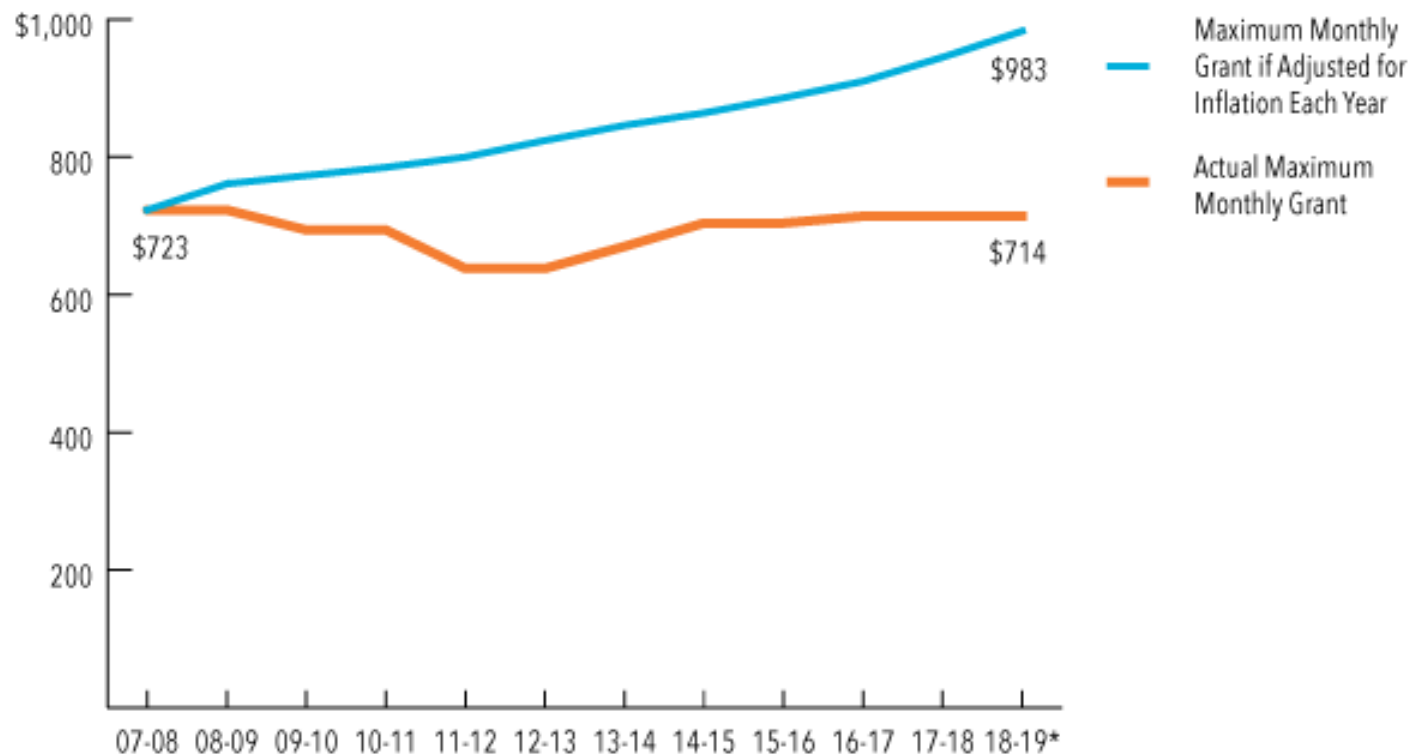
# CalWORKs

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- California's Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program
- Provides basic needs cash aid and services to low-income families with children to alleviate the impact of poverty on children and help parents overcome barriers to employment
- Serves 1.1 million individuals in California, 80 percent of whom are children

# The CalWORKs Grant Has Lost More Than One-Quarter of Its Purchasing Power Since 2007-08

## Maximum Monthly CalWORKs Grant for a Family of Three in a High-Cost County



\* 2018-19 proposed.

Note: The Governor's proposed budget does not provide a grant increase in 2018-19. Inflation adjustment is based on the California Necessities Index.

Source: Budget Center analysis of Department of Social Services data

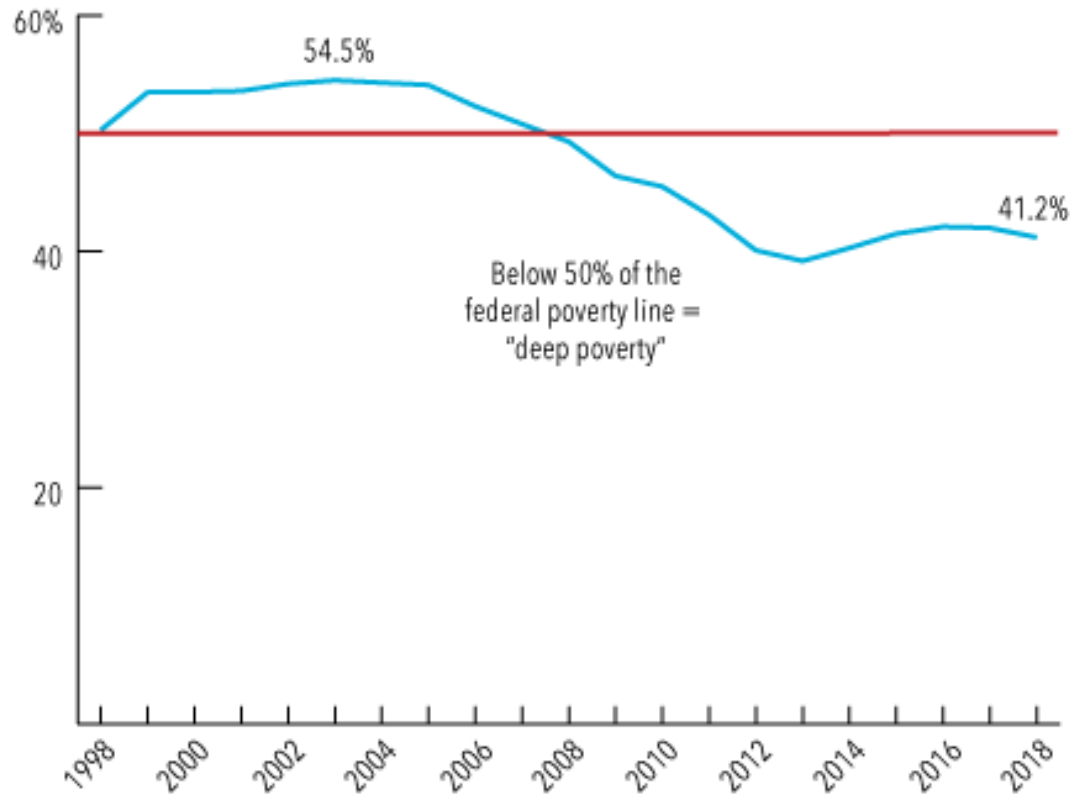


California Budget  
& Policy Center

Independent Analysis. Shared Prosperity.

# Without an Increase in 2018-19, CalWORKs Grants Will Be Below the Deep-Poverty Line for the Eleventh Straight Year

Annualized Maximum Grant for a Family of Three as a Percentage of the Federal Poverty Line



Note: Grants are for high-cost counties. The proposed 2018-19 budget does not increase grant levels.  
Source: Budget Center analysis of Department of Social Services, US Department of Health and Human Services, and US Social Security Administration data



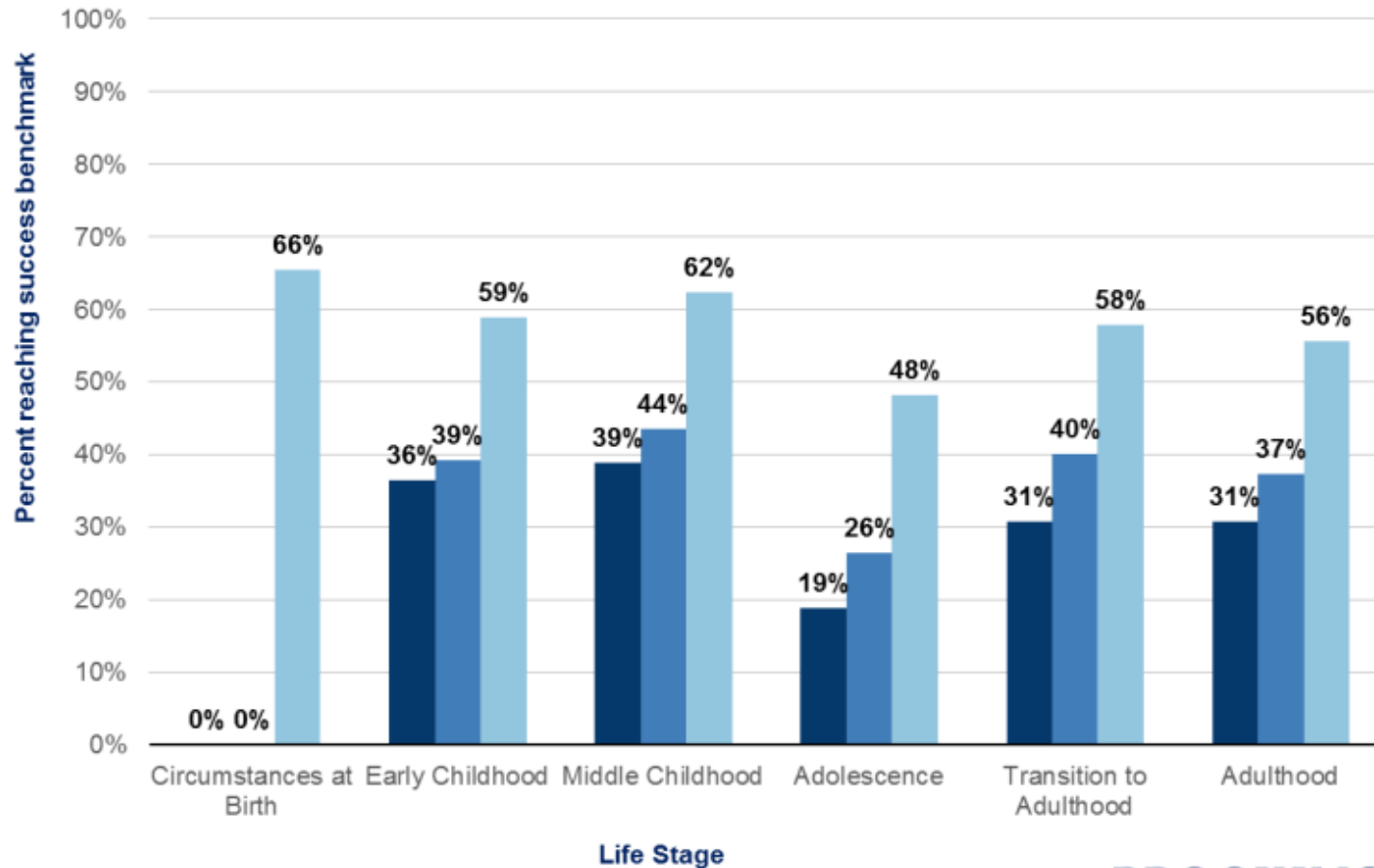
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# Why Deep Child Poverty Matters

- Chronically unmet basic needs undermine health and well-being, as well as future potential
- Deep poverty causes toxic stress that harms brain development and early functioning
- Even a short amount of time spent in deep poverty can derail a child for a much longer time period.
- Children who are born in deep poverty are three times as likely to be deeply poor at age 40

# Success at Six Stages of Life

■ Deer Poor (50% of FPL) ■ Just Poor (51-100% of FPL) ■ Middle Quintile



Source: Authors' Analysis of Social Genome Model data set, based on NLS

BROOKINGS



**End Deep Child Poverty**

**#EndDeepPoverty**

Children's Defense Fund

# SB 982 (Mitchell)

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- Ends childhood deep poverty in CalWORKs
- Sets a floor for grants at 50% of the federal poverty level
- Protects children from the worst harms of chronically unmet basic needs



# Thank you!

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## Children's Defense Fund – California

[www.cdfca.org](http://www.cdfca.org)



## Brooking's Social Genome Project Benchmarks of Success

