



Governor Proposes 10% Across-the-Board Budget Cuts

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed 10% cuts to each and every state agency in order to help address the projected state budget deficit. That shortfall is estimated to reach \$14.5 billion by next year.

The Governor has also declared a “fiscal emergency” and said that “no tax increases” are on the table to help deal with the deficit. By declaring an “emergency,” Schwarzenegger triggers a special session of the State Legislature, giving them 45 days to resolve the deficit issue with him.

Possible effects of such a funding slash



Senator Pat Wiggins visited the TCIL offices on Dec. 18 to learn about our agency, discuss current issues affecting people with disabilities and talk about the 2008 State Legislative session. Pictured (left to right): Cindy Calderon, Systems Change Advocate, TCIL; Senator Pat Wiggins; Chris Jones, Executive Director, TCIL; & Zuretti “Zuey” Goosby, Eureka Field Rep. for Senator Wiggins.

could include the cancellation of cost-of-living increases for the disabled and others receiving state assistance; no cost-of-living increases for In-Home Support Service caregivers; and the end of state-funded dental care for the poor.

Some Responses to the Budget Proposal

“...I remain opposed to drastic reductions in spending for education, health care and services for the elderly and disabled.” Senator Pat Wiggins, (from *Eureka Reporter*, 1/9/08)

“The governor says the system is broke, but then he says we have to live with whatever the system spits out--even if that means closing parks, socking it to the students and ignoring the elderly, poor and disabled.” Assembly Member Patty Berg (from *Eureka Times-Standard*, 1/11/08)

“This is my 10th budget cycle, and most of them haven’t been good. But this one has me worried.” Phillip Crandall, Director, Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services (from *Eureka Reporter*, 1/10/08).

“While difficult, this approach does protect essential services by spreading reductions as evenly as possible across all programs--to ensure that no department or program is singled out for severe reductions.” California Health & Human Services Secretary, Kim Belshe (statement on Agency’s web site).

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Do you ever shop on-line? There's an easy way to do so and help raise funds for Tri-County Independent Living as well. When you join **iGive.com**, and then shop within 45 days, \$5 can be donated to your favorite cause. Then, when you shop at any of the over 680 brand name stores at the site, a portion of each online purchase can be donated to an organization such as TCIL. So check out www.igive.com.

Local Happenings

March 16 (Sunday)--11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Bayside Grange; TCIL's **Humboldt Pie** fundraiser, featuring a pie baking contest, pie eating contest, music, refreshments and more. Call 445-8404 for more info.

Feb. 5 - April 1 (Tuesdays)--5:30 - 7 p.m., Pain Reduction Alternatives: Using Mindfulness-based Stress & Pain Reduction Program, presented by Making Headway Center for Brain Injury Recovery in collaboration with Tri-County Independent Living. Held at TCIL offices. Contact 442-7668 x 206 for more info.



IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 16 (Wed.)--U.S. Congressional hearing on the Community Choices Act (HR 1621). The bill would amend Soc. Security Act to provide individuals with disabilities and older Americans with equal access to community-based attendant services and supports.

Jan. 21 (Mon.)--Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday (observed).

Feb. 5 (Tuesday)--California Primary Day. Be sure to exercise your right to vote! **If you experience any accessibility issues at polling sites, please give TCIL a call.**

Feb. 22--Last day for bills to be introduced in CA State Legislature.

Want to take some action for disability rights and issues? Join the **Disability Action Network**. Contact Cindy Calderon at (707) 445-8404 for more information.

Tri-County Independent Living, 2822 Harris St., Eureka, CA 95503. For questions on this publication, call Glenn Reed at (707) 445-8404.