

News Release



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Governor and the Legislature Receive a Failing Grade for Budget

Community Health Councils released the following statement today in response to the 2008-09 budget signed by Governor Schwarzenegger:

“Both the Governor and the Legislature have failed to act responsibly and pass a budget that raises revenues instead of merely cutting programs that help people when they need help the most. It’s disappointing that after all these months, our leaders were unable to make the tough decisions required in this time of crisis.

The budget attempts to close a \$15.2 billion shortfall by making significant cuts to health and human services among other vital state programs. The budget replaces our current annual renewal process for children receiving Medi-Cal to require them to renew their coverage every six months, resulting in the unnecessary churning on and off of an estimated 250,000 eligible children. It also raises Healthy Families premiums and extends most of the 10% payment cuts for Medi-Cal and other healthcare providers to March 2009.

The current budget does not provide any new permanent long-term revenue solutions for the crisis this year or for years to come. It perpetuates our growing and continuing structural deficit.

California needs leadership that is willing to make its people their highest priority. Instead of undoing our progress, our leaders must follow through on the job of providing affordable health coverage for all Californians.

We can no longer go year to year trying to find the funds to provide something as fundamental as healthcare. California needs comprehensive budget reform to bring new revenues and new solutions to bear on our continuing crisis.”

Community Health Councils is a non-profit, community-based health promotion, advocacy and policy organization. Established in 1992, CHC’s mission is to improve health and increase access to quality healthcare for uninsured, economically-disadvantaged, and underserved populations.