



The latest on California politics and government

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[Brown makes case for cuts in budget summary](#)



Budget geeks that we are, we have a pile of governor's budget summaries on our desk, and Gov. [Jerry Brown's budget document](#) is considerably thicker than his predecessor's.

One reason is that Brown and his **Department of Finance** team have added longer narratives to his proposal. Rather than just outline cuts, Brown's document adds arguments for every health and social service reduction, many of which boil down to assertions that [California](#) currently offers more public services than other states.

"If you compare it to what (spending) was, it's obviously not as much as it was," Brown said Monday of his budget proposal. "If you compare it to other states, we're still doing reasonably well. If you compare us to some European states, we're not doing so well at all. So it depends upon what your yardstick is."

Judging by his budget document, the yardstick Brown would like to use is other states. In budget forums last month, he included charts stating that [California](#) ranks near the bottom in per-pupil spending nationally - and his latest budget plan attempts to spare schools from new cuts.

But here's a sampling of what his budget document says on social service and health programs:

In his proposal to limit access to Medi-Cal services: "[California](#) does not currently place strict limits on utilization of physician, clinic, outpatient, pharmacy, and other Medi-Cal services ... In contrast, Texas and [Illinois](#) have a hard limit of three prescriptions per month. Other states also limit access to inpatient and outpatient services."

In his proposal to eliminate Adult [Day Health Care](#): "[California](#) is one of few states that currently operates an Adult [Day Health Care](#) program."

On [premium increases](#) in Healthy Families: "Healthy Families eligibility levels in [California](#) are more generous than many other states as 18 other states do not cover the population from 200 to 250 percent of poverty."

On CalWORKs cuts: "CalWORKs differs from welfare programs in other states in three significant areas: (1) [California](#) is one of eight states that provides a safety net program for children after the adult(s) reach(es) the 60-month time limit; (2) [California's](#) grant level is fourth highest in the nation, and ranks second highest of the ten largest states; and, (3) [California](#) has one of the most generous income disregards (the amount of income that is not counted for purposes of determining a family's grant amount) in the nation."

[Jean Ross](#) of the [California Budget Project](#), which advocates for low- and middle-income Californians, warned Tuesday that cuts in so many different social service programs could have a "devastating" cumulative effect on families struggling with [unemployment](#).

"I'm deeply concerned with the compounding effect on a single family," she said. "I think there are other options available. It's the [Legislature's](#) job to take what the governor has given them and take into account the impact on families."

***PHOTO CREDIT:** Gov. Jerry Brown releases budget proposal at the State Capitol on Monday, January 10, 2011. Hector Amezcua / Sacramento Bee*

Read more: <http://blogs.sacbee.com/capitolalertlatest/2011/01/brown-makes-his-case-for-cuts.html#ixzz1At2ZXzlv>