



# **HIB** Alameda County Human Impact Budget

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Event: Wednesday, May 14, 2014**

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## **Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan to call on Governor Brown to fight poverty and restore essential services in the California Budget**

*Event will center on local poverty data, the role of social safety net service and leaders in the fight against poverty, and the revised 2014-2015 California Budget from Governor Brown*

**WHO:** Community members, safety net providers and advocates will gather with speakers including:  
**Wilma Chan**, Alameda County Supervisor, Third District  
**Seth Kaplan**, Human Impacts Analyst, Alameda County Human Impact Budget Project  
**Keisha Nzewi**, Advocacy Manager, Alameda County Community Food Bank  
**Alexis Fernández**, Director of Legislation, California Food Policy Advocates  
**Rashida Rackley**, Advocate with Parent Voices and an Alameda County mother of three children struggling to find a job without childcare subsidy

**WHAT:** Alameda County service providers and poverty-fighting leaders will gather with Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan to respond to Governor Brown's revised California Budget for 2014 – 2015 and hold a townhall hearing for the Human Impact Budget Project with the release of a new report.

- Supervisor Chan will ask for specific restorations to poverty-fighting programs like CalFRESH and subsidized childcare that were previously cut in the state budget.
- The new Human Impact Budget report for Alameda County will be released at event.
- Speakers will focus on current poverty issues and share personal stories.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 14, 2014  
11:00am press conference, 11:30am hearing

**WHERE:** Alameda County Board of Supervisors Chambers  
1221 Oak Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Oakland CA 94612

**VISUALS:** Press conference set-up with a podium and crowd area. After the press conference, there will be a hearing where members of the public can give comment.

**WHY:** Fifty years after Lyndon B. Johnson declared a War on Poverty in the United States, children and families in Alameda County are facing difficult times. The wealth of the Bay Area may be rising, but we're seeing some 57 neighborhoods in Alameda County with child poverty rates that exceed 30%.

The children born in the poorest parts of the county have a life expectancy of up to fifteen years less than in other parts of the county. They will also face larger challenges in getting an education and a job. The most disadvantaged children growing up in Alameda County are three times less likely to read at their grade level, and when they grow up, they are six times more likely to be unemployed than in more affluent areas of the county. It's up to us to offer them a brighter future.

Speakers will present the new Human Impact Budget Project Report for Alameda County, with a focus on income inequality and employment in the region. The Human Impact Budget helps Alameda County gain a deeper understanding of how services and service cuts affect Alameda County families, seniors, and children. The HIB website (<https://www.acgov.org/hib/>) features videos and stories on the impacts of social safety net services and state budget cuts, as well as information on poverty, homelessness, and hunger in the county.

**Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan will also discuss three key ways to fight poverty in the 2014-2015 California Budget, in response to the expected revised state budget from Governor Brown to be released on the same day. These three restorations include:**

- **NUTRITION:** a \$20 million state contribution to CalFresh would bring in \$275 million in matching federal funds for hungry families in our state.
- **CHILDCARE:** there needs to be a restoration of the 107,000 subsidized childcare and preschool slots that were cut during the Great Recession.
- **JOBS:** the state must increase funding for workforce development to help Californians earn a living wage.

Traditional social safety net services play a crucial role in the fight against poverty. A 2013 report from the Public Policy Institute of California shows that social safety net services like CalWORKs and CalFresh kept 2.8 million Californians out of deep poverty. CalFresh alone reduced the child poverty rate in our state by four points, or 380,000 children, by providing the groceries for families to cook and make healthy meals for themselves.

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### **About Supervisor Wilma Chan**

Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan represents the Third District. She is the Chair of the County's Health Committee, member of the County's Personnel, Administrative, and Legislative Committee, Budget Committee, and Unincorporated Services Committee and former Majority Leader of the Assembly and Chair of the Committee on Health of the California Assembly. Supervisor Chan is the sixth woman to serve as a supervisor in the history of Alameda County.