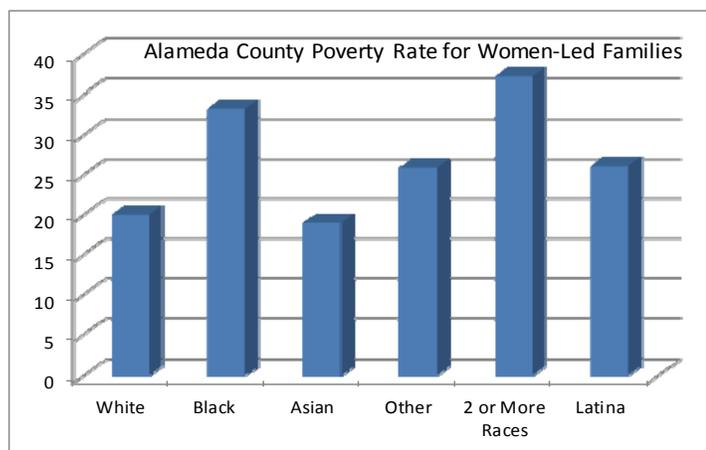


The Human Impact of Budget Cuts on Women & Children



In spite of an improving economy and proposed State budget, programs that help lift women and children out of poverty are not being restored to their pre-recession levels. This is particularly unfortunate because women and children have been harder hit by the Great Recession than other segments of the population.

Single mothers, regardless of race, experience higher levels of poverty (25%) compared to that experienced by all family units overall (14%).



Key Program Cuts Add To Family Poverty

Between 2007 and 2010, the percentage of single mothers with jobs in California dropped by 10% to the lowest rate since 1996. During this same period, basic living expenses in Alameda County increased by 16%. 2008-2012, more than 300,000 women left the community college system because of increased cost and reduced choice. At the same time, CalWORKs grants were cut by 12% and, adjusted for inflation, have shrunk more than 50% since 1987. This is particularly significant for women with children since 80% of CalWORKs recipients are children and about 90% of adult recipients are women.

Child care programs are lauded for their ability to prepare children for success in school, which is an indicator of higher quality of life. Child care is also an essential ingredient for many parents needing to work. Nonetheless, child care programs have been among the hardest hit in recent years. Since 2008, the CalWORKs child care budget has been slashed by one-third, while other subsidized child care has been cut by 16%. As a result, Alameda County lost 900 child care slots last year alone.

Alameda County Children and Poverty

Statewide, one in four children live below the federal poverty line (FPL), and the number has grown steadily over the decade. In Alameda County, more children live in poverty (17%) than any other age group. Poverty among children is particularly devastating because research shows that children living in poverty do not reach the same educational levels as more prosperous children and earn less as adults, ensuring a continuing cycle of multi-generational poverty. Poverty is at the root of systemic inequities across races and communities, in Alameda County and in larger society.

Federal Impacts

Budget sequestration is a procedure the federal government is using to broadly cut programs and reduce the deficit. For children and families sequestration is expected to result in:

- ◆ The loss of 209 Head Start slots and an unknown number of subsidized child care slots and quality improvements projects
- ◆ Reduced subsidized housing for up to 30 families annually
- ◆ Reductions in teachers and teachers aides
- ◆ A cut of 18% in unemployment benefits for long-term unemployed as well as less job training and placement services, making it tougher for timed-out CalWORKs recipients
- ◆ A reduction in domestic violence programs

To find your State representative, go to findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov

To find your federal representative, go to www.house.gov

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