

SAFETY NET COALITION



THE DOMINO EFFECT: The Unintended Consequences of Budget Cuts

When funds are cut from safety net services, the individuals receiving those services are not the only people who suffer. The following chart describes the impact of several of the proposed budget cuts on our community.

Budget Cuts	Impact on Community	Results
Cuts to Medi-Cal dental benefits for adults	Dental clinics serving low income populations close, and children have nowhere to go to receive Medi-Cal dental care, even though they have coverage for this care.	Children with dental disease have poor health, poor school attendance and poor academic performance. Federal matching dollars may be lost.
Cuts to Medi-Cal "Preventive Care" benefits for adults	When someone is denied preventive health care coverage, that person often waits until the condition becomes critical and requires emergency care.	Already overburdened emergency departments treat many emergencies that could have been avoided with preventive care. Wait times for all community members become much longer. Federal matching dollars will be lost.
Cuts to Medi-Cal "Optional" benefits for adults	Podiatry is considered an "optional" benefit under Medi-Cal. When foot care is no longer provided for individuals with diabetes, an infection can take hold and quickly progress to an acute crisis.	Already overburdened emergency departments may see more diabetics with critical infections, and the individual with diabetes may lose a leg, become less independent and possibly face nursing home admission. Federal matching dollars will be lost.
Cuts to Healthy Families insurance program	Studies show that when children do not have health insurance, they are less likely to visit the doctor for immunizations, preventive care and other medical services.	When children aren't immunized, they put every child in their school at risk. In addition, these children are likely to frequently be absent from school. Federal matching dollars will be lost.

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Budget Cuts	Impact on Community	Results
Cuts to child care services	When a mother who works and goes to school to improve her job skills loses child care, she may have to leave school, quit her job and give up her hopes for a career.	The cycle of poverty continues, and this mother – and many like her – will not be able to contribute taxes that are needed to avoid further budget crises.
Cuts to assistance to disabled individuals	When a working person with a disability no longer has adequate assistance in the home or loses the supplies needed to remain healthy, that individual may not be able to keep working and/or live independently in the community.	<p>The community loses a productive, tax-paying citizen.</p> <p>In many cases, Federal matching dollars will be lost.</p>
Cuts to services for frail elders	Frail elders are able to remain independent and living at home because of supportive services such as the Multi-Purpose Senior Services Program (MSSP), Adult Day Services and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS); these older adults may be forced to enter a nursing home.	<p>For every individual who must move from home to a long term care facility, the additional cost to California is between \$16,000 and \$55,000 a year.</p> <p>In many cases, Federal matching dollars will be lost.</p>