



CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

2006 and Beyond: What's Next for California?

March 16, 2006

Preliminary Agenda

8:00-8:45 **Continental Breakfast and Registration**

9:00-9:15 **Welcome and Overview**
Jean Ross, Executive Director, California Budget Project

9:15-10:45 **Morning Plenary**
2006 and Beyond: The Fundamental Policy Choices Facing California

This panel will explore the fiscal, demographic, economic, and policy challenges facing California.

Assemblymember John Laird, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Deborah Reed, Program Director, Public Policy Institute of California
Brad Williams, Director, Fiscal Forecasting and Budget Overview, Legislative Analyst's Office

11:00-12:15 **Workshops**

- Is California's Tax System Prepared to Meet the Challenges of the Future?
- Poverty in California: Trends, Levels, and Demographic Dimensions
- State and Federal Health Policy: Where Are We Headed in 2006 and Beyond?
- Strengthening California's Foundations: Meeting the Infrastructure Challenge
- Through the Crystal Ball: What's Up with the 2006-07 Budget?
- What Will TANF Reauthorization and the State Budget Mean for California's Safety Net for Low-Income Families?

12:30-2:00 **Lunch Plenary**
The Future of the Federal Budget and Its Impact on California

What will recent federal budget decisions mean for California? Will mounting budget deficits increase pressure for more spending cuts? Who has benefited from recent federal tax cuts and what impact have they had on the deficit?

Jason Furman, Senior Fellow, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Visiting Scholar, New York University, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

2:15-3:30

Workshops

- A Closer Look at the Federal Budget and What It Means for California
- Boom, Bust, and Beyond: The Economic Realities of California's Workers and Their Families
- Do the State and Federal Budgets Take Care of Our Kids?
- California's Public Schools: Are More Storm Clouds Looming on the Horizon?
- Everything You Wanted to Know About Debt
- Paving the Way: Does the Governor's Proposed 2006-07 Budget Prepare California for the Future?

3:30-4:30

Afternoon Plenary

Putting the Public Back in Public Policy: Governance, Public Policy, and the Future of California

Are the interests of all Californians adequately represented in the state's policy and political processes? Has California become ungovernable? What steps are needed to boost participation in public and policy debates?

Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas

Mark DiCamillo, Director, The Field Poll

Kathay Feng, Executive Director, California Common Cause

4:30-4:45

Closing Remarks

Jean Ross, Executive Director, California Budget Project

5:00-6:00

Reception

The California Budget Project wishes to thank the California HealthCare Foundation, based in Oakland, California, for their generous support of this event.