

## Poverty Platform

*Adopted at the CSAC's April 22, 2015 Poverty Working Group Meeting*

The California State Association of Counties affirms that California's counties are the front line of human assistance systems, serving as the community's link between state and federal policies and the delivery of critical poverty reduction services.

Poverty is influenced by a disparate but connected set of factors, including but not limited to: a lack of sufficient income, geographic challenges, employment and economic climate, availability of supports and services, availability of stable and permanent housing, education resources, lack of transportation systems, complex state and federal regulation, access to health care, health disparities, and access to quality child care.

Counties recognize that poverty may be influenced by international, national, and state economic factors outside of local control, but note that any period in which poverty increases results in a pernicious cycle of rising caseloads and needs while revenues at the county level decrease.

Counties must have the local administrative flexibility and resources to meet federal and state standards, while also meeting the unique needs of their residents. Counties recognize that poverty impacts other levels of local government, including schools and cities, and encourage working collaboratively to serve all residents. Counties must also be partners in the design and reform of programs that focus on the whole person/family as the starting point for customizing services in order to address poverty in our communities.