



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
SUPERVISOR FEDERAL D. GLOVER
DISTRICT FIVE
315 E. Leland Road
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Press Release

What: State of the Safety Net
Why: The impact of the recession on East County service agencies
When: 9 a.m. to noon, Feb. 2
Where: Los Medanos College, Library's Community Room
Information: 925-427-8138

East County hearing on the state of the safety net

"The recession is hitting East County particularly hard," said Supervisor Federal Glover. "We want to find out how our service agencies – society's safety net – are faring under the demands being placed upon them."

He is sponsoring a hearing to gather testimony from a number of county and private non-profit agencies delivering help to those impacted by the economic downturn on Feb. 2 at Los Medanos College in Pittsburg. County, state and federal representatives will be present to hear from the community-based organizations.

Glover said recent statistics seem to bear out the unprecedented stress placed on East County communities.

- In Contra Costa County, food stamp applications have increased by 65%.
- For 2008, 47 percent of all CalWORKS applications in the County were registered in East County.
- The average number of clients seen in the Antioch office is 6,000 per month since August of 2007. That is the highest caseload in the county compared to the Richmond office averages only 4,000 clients per month and Pleasant Hill averages over 3,000 per month.

Contra Costa County is not alone in feeling the impact of the recession.

"Across the state, counties are experiencing significant revenue shortfalls and rising caseload demands. They are taking dramatic steps to resolve their budget imbalances while maintaining services to the most vulnerable Californians," said Paul McIntosh, Executive Director of the California State Association of Counties. "The state's cash crisis will cripple county services, underscoring why we need a balanced budget solution now."

Counties continue to see dramatic increases in unemployment and foreclosures in their communities, along with significant reductions in property assessments and sales tax revenue. Cumulatively, these factors have led to hiring freezes and layoffs of county employees, and, an unprecedented demand for aid and services by Contra Costa residents in need – many of whom are first-time applicants.

"We want to hear from those service providers on the front line, those who make up our safety net," said Glover, whose district spans the northeast shoreline communities of Contra Costa County, from Bay Point in the west and eastward to Bethel Island.