



Colorado Center on Law and Policy Files Suit Against the State of Colorado

August 2004

On August 30, 2004, CCLP lawyers joined with lawyers in private practice in Denver and the Welfare Law Center in NY to sue to delay or perfect the implementation of Colorado's Benefits Management System (CBMS).

CBMS is a large scale computer system designed to integrate public benefits processing in several program areas, including Food Stamps, TANF (Colorado Works), Medicaid, Colorado's Old Age Pension, Aid to the Needy Disabled, and others.

The Denver District Court initially granted an injunction prohibiting the State from requiring applicants from signing documents which were made to contain false information to help the computer system operate.

In September, he denied plaintiffs request to shut the system down and revert for a period to pre-existing systems while the new CBMS is improved.

The case is ongoing, with CCLP lawyers Elisabeth Arenales, Maureen Farrell, and Ed Kahn representing benefits recipients and applicants whose cases have been delayed or mishandled by the system. Denver lawyer Michael Cook of Sherman & Howard is plaintiffs' lead counsel.

CCLP has received substantial factual assistance from agencies serving the poor throughout the State. Defendants are the State Directors of Human Services and Health Care Policy and Finance. *Hawthorne-Bey v. Reinertson*, D Dist Ct, 04 CV 7059.