

Welfare recipients file lawsuit against NY

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ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - Advocates who say New York welfare payments must be increased are launching a class action lawsuit against the state on behalf of welfare recipients.

Lawyers from a New York City firm working for no fee are filing the suit in state Supreme Court, arguing lawmakers neglected their duties under the state constitution by failing to increase the welfare grant since 1990.

According to the suit, the current grant provides assistance equal to less than half of the national poverty level. Attorneys from Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison argue the state's inaction has created a class of citizens forced to live in poverty.

A family of 3 on welfare in New York receives \$291 a month, plus an allowance for rent that varies by county.