



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

July 22, 2015

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO: I-62-15

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORS  
ALL COUNTY REFUGEE COORDINATORS  
ALL CONSORTIA MANAGERS  
ALL COUNTY CALFRESH SPECIALISTS  
ALL CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES  
ALL TRIBAL TANF ADMINISTRATORS

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA DROUGHT RELIEF INITIATIVE AND BROCHURE

REFERENCE: CALIFORNIA DROUGHT BROCHURE

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) is to transmit information regarding measures enacted to preserve water as California struggles with its most severe drought on record. On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a Drought State of Emergency for California and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for continued drought conditions. The California Drought Brochure attached provides information on program assistance and services to manage the unprecedented drought conditions in our state. Each program/service listed within the brochure includes a link for potential applicants to view and/or apply online for the various program/services noted.

**BACKGROUND:**

To assist communities manage California's drought conditions, on March 27, 2015 Governor Brown signed emergency legislation Assembly Bill (AB) 91 (Chapter 1 Statutes of 2014) and AB 92 (Chapter 2 Statutes of 2014). These bills fast tracked more than \$1 billion in funding for drought relief and critical water infrastructure projects effective fiscal year 2015 and 2016. Counties are encouraged to assist individuals and families who have been affected by the ongoing drought by directing them to the appropriate family assistance programs and/or services. Highlights within the brochure include, but are not limited to, programs and services covering:

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

**ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:**

- CalFresh-An assistance program that provides monthly benefits to assist low-income households in purchasing the food they need to maintain adequate nutritional levels. Households are eligible if they reside in the geographical area impacted by drought, and are unemployed or underemployed as a result of the drought may apply for benefits through the CalFresh Program.  
[www.calfresh.ca.gov](http://www.calfresh.ca.gov)

**OTHER PROGRAMS/SERVICES:**

- California's Drought Food Assistance Program: A temporary food assistance program developed in response to the Drought Emergency Declaration in January 2014. This program provides low-income individuals and families in California with a supplemental three to five day supply of U.S. Department of Agriculture food each month.  
[http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/PressRelease/DFAP\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/PressRelease/DFAP_FactSheet.pdf)
- California Department of Community Services & Development: Created the Drought Water Assistance Program to assist drought impacted, low-income households with their residential water utility bill to prevent disruption in vital water services and promote water conservation through education.  
<http://www.csd.ca.gov/Newsroom/NewsReleases/June4,2014.aspx>
- Department of Healthcare Services Crisis Counseling: Short-term counseling may be available for emotional or mental health problems caused by the economic impacts of the drought.  
<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/mh/Documents/CMHDA.pdf>
- Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance: Workers who have lost their jobs due to water shortages and drought conditions in California may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance. [www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment](http://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment)

**CAMERA-READY COPIES AND TRANSLATIONS**

For a camera ready copy of English, contact the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Forms Management Unit at (916) 657-1907. If your office has internet access, you may obtain these forms from the CDSS web page at:  
[http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu\\_271.htm](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_271.htm).

When translations are completed, they are posted on an ongoing basis on the CDSS website for use by the counties pursuant to Manual of Policies and Procedures Section 21-115.2. Copies of the translated forms and publications can be obtained at  
[http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu\\_274.htm](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_274.htm). For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651-8876.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding the information in this letter, please contact your CDSS Employment Bureau county consultant at (916) 654-2137.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

KÄREN DICKERSON, Chief  
CalWORKs Employment and Eligibility Branch

Attachment

**California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB):** SWRCB has grants available for drought-related drinking water emergencies and threatened emergencies. For more information visit the website at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_oans/caa/dw\\_droughtfund/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_oans/caa/dw_droughtfund/) or call 916-319-9066. For general regulatory questions regarding public water systems, contact the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water District Office. To locate a District Office and contact information, visit the website at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/programs/documents/ddwem/DDWdistrictofficesmap.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/documents/ddwem/DDWdistrictofficesmap.pdf). Public water systems with an emergency should contact the Division of Drinking Water personnel listed on their current Water Quality Emergency Notification Plan.

### **HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

#### **Crisis Counseling:**

Short-term counseling may be available for emotional or mental health problems caused by the economic impacts of the drought. For more information, contact your county mental health department. For a listing of these county departments, visit the website at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/mh/Documents/CMHDA.pdf>

#### **Medi-Cal Health Coverage:**

Medi-Cal is a public health insurance program that provides Californians with access to affordable, high-quality health care, including medical, dental, mental health, substance use treatment services and long-term care. Medi-Cal covers low-income individuals, including families with children, seniors, persons with disabilities, foster care, pregnant women, and low-income people with specific diseases, such as tuberculosis, breast cancer, or HIV/AIDS. For more information, contact your county social/human services department. For a listing of these county departments, visit the website at: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>

### **EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND BENEFITS**

#### **Job Services:**

Job seekers and employers will find a wide variety of employment services offered by EDD and local partners at America's Job Center of California Offices throughout the state. Using these job search and training services, job seekers with a legal right to work in the U.S. can connect with thousands of available jobs through the automated system CalJOBS. For more information, visit EDD's website at: [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov)

#### **Unemployment Insurance:**

Workers who have lost their jobs due to water shortages and drought conditions in California may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. UI benefits are provided to workers who are fully or partially unemployed due to no fault of their own, have a legal right to work in the U.S., and are ready, willing, and able to accept work for which they are qualified.

The quickest and easiest way to apply for UI benefits is online. Visit Employment Development Department's (EDD) website at: [www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment](http://www.edd.ca.gov/unemployment). Then click on "File or Reopen a UI Claim." UI claims can also be filed by telephone at 1-800-300-5616. (For Cantonese, call 1-800-547-3506; For Mandarin, call 1-866-303-0706; For Spanish, call 1-800-326-8937; For Vietnamese, call 1-800-547-2058; For TTY, call 1-800-815-9387)

### **PROGRAMS FOR FARMERS, RANCHERS AND OTHER BUSINESSES**

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Farm Service Agency (FSA):**

Emergency Loan (EM) are made available in areas designated a disaster by the Secretary of Agriculture to help producers recover from production and physical losses. Contact the FSA office listed in your local telephone directory, or visit FSA's website at: [www.fsa.usda.gov/ca](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca)

Disaster Programs available to assist farmers and ranchers include the Livestock Forage Program (LFP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Center for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>

#### **USDA, Rural Development (RD):**

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) – USDA provides grants and loan guarantees to help rural businesses, farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers purchase and install renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements such as, replacing inefficient water pumps and replacing generators with solar systems used for agriculture irrigation pumps. For additional information on RD programs and contact information, visit the website at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/CA-DroughtAssistance.pdf>

#### **USDA, National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS):**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance in planning and implementing conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, etc. Additional program information can be found on the NRCS website at: [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/program\\_s/financial/eqip/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/program_s/financial/eqip/). Applicants can contact their local Service Center or NRCS Office by visiting the website at: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ca&agency=fsa>

Additional information regarding Conservation Assistance to California Farmers and Ranchers can be found on the USDA-NRCS website at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/newsroom/features/>

#### **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Economic Injury Disaster Loans:**

Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are low-interest working capital loans to help small businesses; small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private, non-profit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of a disaster, such as drought. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period. SBA makes EIDLs available after a drought when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Most of California has been designated under an agricultural disaster for drought. Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance; however, in drought disasters nurseries are eligible. Eligible small businesses may qualify for working capital loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. For more information call SBA toll-free at 1-800-659-2955. Hearing impaired individuals may call 1-800-877-8339. For drought specific information, visit SBA's website for drought assistance at: <http://www.sba.gov/content/drought-disaster-assistance>

**If you have been affected by the ongoing Drought, here is some information that may be helpful**



***This publication distributed by:  
California Governor's Office of  
Emergency Services (Cal OES)  
[www.caloes.ca.gov](http://www.caloes.ca.gov)***

*(For individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired, please call the California Relay Service at 711 and ask to be put in touch with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services at 916-845-8400.)*

## **EMERGENCY NEEDS REFERRAL**

### **The American Red Cross (Red Cross):**

Red Cross provides emergency food, clothing, shelter, and disaster mental health and disaster health assistance to individuals and families affected by emergencies and disasters. Contact the Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS (733-2767).

### **The Salvation Army:**

The Salvation Army provides a variety of disaster and emergency services including help with food, hydration, emergency energy assistance, clothing and personal needs, emotional and spiritual care. For more information call 1-800-SALARMY (725-2769) or visit the website at: <http://www.salvationarmy.usawest.org/usw20/home>

## **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

### **Emergency Food Assistance:**

California's Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) provides eligible low-income individuals and families in California with a supplemental 3-5 day supply of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) food each month. To locate the EFAP food bank serving your local area call 1-800-283-9000, or visit the website at: [www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG55.htm](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG55.htm)

California's Drought Food Assistance Program (DFAP) is a temporary food assistance program developed in response to the Governor's Drought Emergency Declaration in January 2014. The DFAP provides food boxes to food banks in specified counties that suffer high levels of unemployment from the drought. To find out which counties are eligible for DFAP food, visit the website at:

[http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/PressRelease/DFAP\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/pdf/PressRelease/DFAP_FactSheet.pdf)

### **CalFresh:**

If you have been affected by the drought and are in need of food assistance due to a loss of income, you can apply for benefits through the CalFresh Program. To find out how to apply for benefits in your county, please call the toll free number 1-877-847-3663 (FOOD) or apply online at: [www.benefitscal.org/](http://www.benefitscal.org/). For more information on CalFresh, visit the website at: [www.calfresh.ca.gov](http://www.calfresh.ca.gov)

### **CalWORKs:**

CalWORKs provides cash aid to eligible needy California families to help pay for housing, food, and other necessary expenses. For information contact your local county welfare/social services department. To find your local office visit the website at: <http://www.cwda.org/links/chsa.php> or for more information on this program, visit the cash aid website at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/PG54.htm>

### **Services for Seniors:**

The California Department of Aging contracts with and provides leadership and direction to Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) that coordinate a wide array of services to seniors and adults with disabilities. You can locate an AAA in your area by calling 1-800-510-2020 or visit the website at: [http://www.aging.ca.gov/ProgramsProviders/AAA/AAA\\_Listing.asp](http://www.aging.ca.gov/ProgramsProviders/AAA/AAA_Listing.asp)

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) provides low-income seniors with coupon books used to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey at Certified Farmers' Markets (CFM). The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) partners with California's AAA to distribute the coupon books. For more information contact 916-657-3231, e-mail [grants@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:grants@cdfa.ca.gov), or visit the website at: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/SFMNP](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/SFMNP)

### **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program:**

WIC program helps low-to-moderate-income pregnant women and new mothers to make healthy food choices for themselves and their children up to age 5. WIC provides nutrition and health information, special checks to buy nutritious foods, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care and community services. For more information, visit the website at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Pages/default.aspx> and click on "Find a Local WIC Agency" under Program Information.

### **California Department of Community Services & Development (CSD):**

CSD provides funding to local community organizations for community services and energy assistance programs to help low-income Californians including assistance with clothing, motel vouchers, blankets, shelters, home energy bill assistance and emergency food. For more information visit the website at: [www.csd.ca.gov](http://www.csd.ca.gov).

### **CSD (cont'd):**

Community Services Programs - As part of a federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) award, CSD provides funding to local community organizations, which provide assistance to low-income Californians and farmworkers. Services may include employment services, better use of available income, housing and rental assistance, and food/nutritional services. For additional information on services offered in your area, eligibility, program requirements, and where to apply, visit the CSD website at: <http://www.csd.ca.gov/Services/FindServicesinYourArea.aspx>.

Utility Assistance Programs - The Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides financial assistance to low-income households to manage and meet immediate home heating and/or cooling needs and provides services to improve a household's energy efficiency helping to reduce energy usage and costs. For additional information on eligibility, program requirements, and where to apply, visit the CSD website at: <http://www.csd.ca.gov/Services/FindServicesinYourArea.aspx>, or contact CSD's Utility Assistance Call Center at 1-866-675-6623.

Drought Water Assistance Program (DWAP) – CSD created the DWAP to assist drought impacted, low-income households with their residential water utility bill to prevent disruption in vital water services and to promote water conservation through education. The one-time program, funded by the federal CSBG, is directed to low-income households in 10 drought-impacted counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus and Tulare. More information is available at <http://www.csd.ca.gov/Newsroom/NewsReleases/June4,2014.aspx>

### **Migrant Child Care and Development:**

Migrant child care and development programs serve the children of agricultural workers while their parents are at work. The centers are open for varying lengths of time during the year, depending largely on the harvest activities in the area. In addition to these center-based programs, the Migrant Alternative Payment Network Program allows eligibility and funding for services that follow migrant families as they move from place to place to find work in the Central Valley. For additional information regarding migrant child care and development programs, families may contact their local Resource and Referral Agency. For more information, visit the website at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re?rragencylist.asp>

### **Migrant Education Program (MEP):**

MEP provides supplementary education and support services to eligible migrant children and youth, ages 3-21, to help mitigate the educational disruption that results from repeated moves in order to meet the state's academic content standards and graduate from high school. For more information, call 916-319-0851 or visit the website at: [www.cde.ca.gov/sp/me/mt/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/me/mt/)

### **California LifeLine Program:**

The California LifeLine Program provides discounted home phone and cell phone services to qualified households with incomes at or below 150% of the poverty level. The California LifeLine discounts help consumers lower the cost of their phone bills. Only one discount per household is allowed. Call a participating phone company and ask for the California LifeLine discounts to start the application process. Visit the website at: [www.californialifeline.com](http://www.californialifeline.com) or call 866-272-0357 for more information.

### **California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA):**

For information on drought resources for farmers, ranchers, and farmworkers, visit CDFA's website at: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/drought/](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/drought/)

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development:**

The following USDA RD Programs are available to help homeowners impacted by drought including drilling a well, purchasing well pump equipment, and covering costs to connect to a community water system. Homes must be located in rural areas and towns of up to 25,000 in population.

Rural Repair & Rehabilitation Loan and Grant (Section 504) Program - USDA provides loans and grants to very low-income homeowners living in an eligible rural area make repairs to their homes. Grants up to \$7,500 are limited to individuals age 62 or older. Loans up to \$20,000 include: 1% interest rate, up to 20 years for repayment, and have no age restrictions.

Rural Housing Direct Loan (Section 502) Program – USDA provides repair loans to eligible low-income individuals to make repairs to their homes. Applications are accepted year-round and applicants must meet repayment requirements.

For additional information on RD programs and contact information, visit the website at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/CA-DroughtAssistance.pdf>