

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



May 31, 2007

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-25-07

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS
ALL CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE DUE TO FREEZE IN
JANUARY, 2007 IN THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (FSP)/CaWORKs

The purpose of this notice is to transmit information regarding Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) provided to individuals who have suffered job loss or endured unemployment because of the freeze in January of this year in California. The filing deadline, originally April 13, is extended through May 25, 2007, by the U.S Department of Labor, acting in response to a request from the State Employment Development Department (EDD).

The DUA program provides benefits of up to \$450 a week for up to 26 weeks. It covers individuals who have the legal right to work in the United States but are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits, including, but not limited to, individuals who have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits or individuals who are self-employed.

DUA became available March 13, 2007, after President Bush replied to a request from Governor Schwarzenegger to declare certain California counties disaster areas. President Bush declared a major disaster in 16 counties in Central and Southern California: Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Ventura counties.

Treatment of DUA Income in the FSP

The unemployment assistance income derived from the DUA program is treated as excluded income when determining food stamp eligibility and benefit levels as provided in MPP 63-507(a)(10).

Treatment of DUA Income in CalWORKs

For CalWORKs purposes, earnings to individuals participating in disaster relief unemployment under DUA shall not be considered income for purposes of determining CalWORKs eligibility and grant determination under MPP 44-111.6(i).

County Welfare Departments can determine whether a FSP/CalWORKs applicant/recipient is receiving DUA or regular unemployment insurance benefits (UIB) by accessing computer information maintained in EDD files (WIC 10606.1(b)). These files are available online to county eligibility workers. The online system will show whether the applicant/recipient is receiving DUA, shown as "DUA" or UIB, shown as "UI". The online system will also show the benefit amount.

If there are any questions regarding treatment of DUA payments in the FSP, please contact Joyce Brewer at (916) 534-3366.

If there are any questions regarding treatment of DUA payments in the CalWORKs program, please contact your CalWORKs county consultant.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

RICHTON YEE, Chief
Food Stamp Branch

Original Document Signed By:

KÄREN DICKERSON, Chief
Employment and Eligibility Branch