

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

May 17, 1991



ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 91-41

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (DUA)
PAYMENTS IN THE FOOD STAMP, AFDC AND RCA PROGRAMS.

The purpose of this letter is to advise County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of the treatment of disaster assistance payments which are subject to the provisions of the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Amendments of 1988 (Public Law 100-707). Section 312(d) of PL 100-707 amended the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 and set forth the types of emergency disaster assistance which can not be considered as income or resources when determining AFDC, Food Stamp and RCA Program eligibility and/or benefit levels.

One such assistance payment is Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) which provides financial assistance to persons unemployed as a direct result of a Presidentially declared natural disaster. DUA is a special disaster assistance payment which is separate and apart from regular unemployment insurance benefits (UIB).

PL 100-707 added the phrase "any natural catastrophe" to the list of specific catastrophic situations that would warrant government assistance to communities and individuals. Damage to California's citrus industry as a result of the winter freeze has been declared by the President as a natural disaster and, therefore, is covered by PL 100-707.

Persons who are no longer employed due to the freeze may be eligible for DUA payments. Individuals in 33 counties are potentially eligible. DUA consists of weekly payments which are computed the same way as UIB. DUA payments are payable only for the weeks that fall within the Disaster Period which began December 23, 1990 and will end August 17, 1991. Persons eligible to receive DUA are notified by a Notice of Entitlement which is a preprinted form with manual entries while, for regular UIB, a California Award Notice, a computer-printed form without any manual entries, is used.

Additionally, unlike UIB checks which have a "tri-color" background, DUA is a regular issued State Controller check with a "greenish" background. However, please note that DUA payments will not be included on Payment Verification System (PVS) reports.

As DUA payments are assistance provided to victims of a major disaster as amended by Section 312(d) of PL 100-707, the payments are excluded as income or resources under the AFDC, Food Stamp and RCA Programs. Moreover, in the Food Stamp Program, these payments are excluded as a resource by MS 63-501.3(k) and as income by MS 63-502.2(1).

If you have any questions regarding the treatment of DUA, please contact Jim Mullany (AFDC) at (916) 445-7884 or Mary Clark (Food Stamps) at (916) 324-2015 of the Welfare Policy Implementation Bureau.



ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director

cc: CWDA