

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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. The quickest and easiest way to apply is online. Visit Employment Development Department's (EDD) website at: www.edd.ca.gov Click on the "Unemployment" link, then on "Apply for UI" (eApply4UI) at the top right of the page.

UI claims also can 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) UI benefits are provided to workers who are unemployed due to no fault of their own, or working less than full time, have a legal right to work in the U.S., and are ready, willing, and able to work.

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

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

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) assists farmers and ranchers in repairing damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to implement emergency water conservation measures in periods of severe drought. Interested producers can sign up at the local USDA Service Center between February 10 and March 27, 2014. For additional information on ECP visit the website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/ca

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.rurdev.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/programs/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 a 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. 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, or visit SBA's website at: www.sba.gov/disaster Hearing impaired individuals may call 1-800-877-8339.

**If you have been affected
by the recent 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***

(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 (ARC):

ARC provides emergency food, clothing, shelter, and medical assistance to needy individuals and families. Contact the ARC at 1-800-RED-CROSS (733-2767).

The Salvation Army:

The Salvation Army provides a variety of services including help with food, household needs, clothing and personal needs. For more information call 1-800-SALARMY (725-2769) or visit the website at: <http://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org/>

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Food Assistance:

California Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) supplements the food needs of eligible low-income individuals and families in California through a network of local food banks. 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

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/ For more information on CalFresh, visit the website at: 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/AA_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, or visit the website at: www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/SFMNP

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

WIC program helps low-to-moderate-income pregnant women, new mothers and their babies and young children to eat well and stay healthy. WIC provides special checks to buy healthy foods, information about nutrition and health, and 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 www.csd.ca.gov.

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>.

Energy 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 CSD's website at: <http://www.csd.ca.gov/Services/FindServicesinYourArea.aspx>, or contact CSD's Utility Assistance Call Center at 1-866-675-6623.

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. Go to www.californialifeline.com or call 866-272-0357 for more information.

Migrant Education Program (MEP):

MEP provides supplementary education and support services to identified migrant children and youth, ages 3-21, to help them meet the state's academic content standards and to help them graduate from high school. For regional contact information, call 916-319-0851 or visit the website at: www.cde.ca.gov/sp/me/ml/

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/

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.rurdev.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/CA-DroughtAssistance.pdf>

California Department of Public Health (DPH):

DPH has Emergency Drinking Water Grants available, and is monitoring Public Water Systems that are in danger of running out of water in the near future. If you have concerns or questions about your public water system, please contact the Drinking Water Hotline at 1-855-737-1796, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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.

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>