

TAX ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

Employment Tax Requests for Extension to Report and Pay:

Employers statewide directly impacted by the recent drought disaster may request an extension of up to 60 days to file their state payroll reports and to deposit state payroll taxes with EDD, without penalty or interest. For further information, call EDD's Taxpayer Assistance Center at 1-888-745-3886 or visit EDD's website at: www.edd.ca.gov

EMERGENCY NEEDS REFERRAL

The American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross (ARC) provides emergency food, clothing, shelter, and medical assistance to needy individuals and families. Contact the ARC at 1-866-GETINFO (438-4636).

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: www.tsatoday.org

Department of Community Services & Development:

The Department of Community Services & Development (CSD) provides funding to more than 100 local community organizations that offer assistance with clothing, motel vouchers, blankets, shelters, energy assistance and emergency food. For more information, contact 916-341-4200. For information on the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), call 1-866-675-6623.

PROGRAMS FOR FARMERS, RANCHERS AND OTHER BUSINESSES

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides emergency loans 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

U.S. Small Business Administration, Economic Injury Disaster Loans:

Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) are low-interest working capital loans to help small businesses; small agricultural cooperatives and certain 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. The U.S. Small Business Administration (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 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 adverse weather condition not occurred. For more information call SBA toll-free at 1-800-659-2955, or visit SBA's website at: www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance
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



(For individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-disabled, please call the California Relay Service at 711 and ask to be put in touch with the California Emergency Management Agency at 916-845-8400.)

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Food Assistance:

California Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) provides federal commodities to 50 food banks with over 2300 distribution sites statewide. Food is then distributed to individuals that meet income eligibility requirements. For locating a distribution site serving your area call 1-800-283-9000, or visit the website at: www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/PG55.htm

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:

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 Food Stamp Program from your local county welfare/social services office. For more information visit the website at: www.cdss.ca.gov/foodstamps/

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>

Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Nutrition Program:

The Woman, Infants, and Children (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 such as milk, juice, eggs, cheese; and starting in October 2009--fruits, vegetables, baby foods and whole grains;
- Information about nutrition and health;
- 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.

Migrant Education Program:

The Migrant Education Program (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/mt/

Local Utility Companies:

Many local utility companies have programs to assist eligible low-income households pay their energy bills or prevent service from being shut off during winter and during heat emergencies. Contact your local utility providers for available services.

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/local_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 program begins in May and runs through November. 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 or e-mail grants@cdfa.ca.gov

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Access for Infants and Mothers Program:

The Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) program provides low-cost health insurance coverage to uninsured middle-income pregnant women. For a copy of the AIM Handbook and application, please call 1-800-433-2611, or visit the website at: www.AIM.ca.gov

Healthy Families Program:

The Healthy Families Program (HFP) provides low-cost comprehensive health, dental and vision coverage to uninsured children and teens whose family income is too high to qualify for Medi-Cal. For a copy of the HFP Handbook & application, please call toll free 1-800-880-5305 or visit the website at: <http://www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov>

Medi-Cal Health Coverage:

Medi-Cal is a public health insurance program that provides comprehensive medical, dental and vision care coverage to low-income individuals, including families with children, seniors, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and low-income people with specific diseases, such as tuberculosis, breast cancer or HIV/AIDS. For more information, contact your county welfare/social services department.

Local, Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Program

The Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) program helps low-income, uninsured, and underinsured families access health care services to address a broad range of public health problems. For more information on services visit the website at:

www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/mcah

To access a list of local MCAH Department call 1-866-241-0395 or visit the website at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/mcah/Pages/MCAHDirectorsandLocalTollFreeNumbers.aspx>

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, visit www.dmh.ca.gov

Health Information:

For information on health concerns related to the drought, please visit the California Department of Public Health website: <http://www.bepreparedcalifornia.ca.gov>

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Unemployment Insurance:

Workers who have lost their jobs because of the drought may be eligible for Unemployment Insurance (UI). 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 Online" (eApply4UI) at the top right of the page.

UI claims also can be filed by telephone at 1-800-300-5616. (For Spanish, call 1-800-326-8937. 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 One-Stop Career Centers and EDD Workforce Services 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