

## **Benefits and Health Care Rights for Those Impacted by Flooding**

### **Need Emergency Benefits?**

#### **Food:**

**Already on CalFresh:** If you lost food due to flooding, power outages, or another disaster-related reason, you can contact your county CalFresh office to ask for “replacement CalFresh” and you may be able to get additional money to buy food. Replacement CalFresh benefits may be issued up to the full value of your monthly benefits. You should contact your CalFresh office within 10 days of the disaster to ask for this.

**Applying for CalFresh:** Households applying for CalFresh for the first time may request Expedited Service if they are experiencing a food emergency and meet certain criteria. Displaced households can self-certify their residency and certain other requirements if they lack regular proofs.

#### **Cash Aid:**

**CalWORKs:** This aid is for families with kids.

**Families applying for CalWORKs:** Ask for emergency assistance if you have an emergency (such as temporary homelessness) related to the disaster. Emergency assistance can include:

- **Immediate Need Payments:** This lets the county pay your CalWORKs benefit right away while they are processing your application. Special Rules about using a sworn statement if you are missing proofs of things like income and residency may also apply.

**Families already on CalWORKs:** You can also get Special Needs Payments if you are on CalWORKs. You may also be able to get waivers of welfare to work requirements and some other rules if you cannot comply due to the disaster.

#### **Special Needs Payments and Homeless Assistance:**

Both applicants and families already on CalWORKs can ask for special needs payments or homeless assistance.

- One-time special needs assistance for “Emergencies resulting from special circumstances beyond the family’s control” may give up to \$600 for each incident.
- Emergency homeless assistance (temporary and permanent) can help families pay for temporary shelter and/or for help with costs of moving into a new home.

### **Not a U.S. Citizen?:**

Getting help related to the flooding will not make it difficult to adjust immigration status later. There are also rights to have immigration documents replaced and protections against extortion.

### **Getting Medical Care or Coverage:**

**ER Care:** You cannot be refused care at a hospital for an emergency medical condition.

**Replace Prescriptions:** Contact your doctor or pharmacy. If you have been impacted by disaster, local disaster relief services may be able to help. (Red Cross: 1-866-438-4636)

**Medi-Cal:** If you are unable to work or income has decreased, you may be eligible. Contact your county to apply.

**Medi-Cal’s Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Program (HPE):** Provides qualified individuals immediate access to temporary, no-cost Medi-Cal while applying for permanent Medi-Cal or other health coverage. To apply, visit a hospital that is a qualified HPE provider.

### **Have Medi-Cal?**

Most Medi-Cal recipients in the affected counties get care through a managed care plan. If you are displaced because of the flooding, you may have trouble going to your regular providers for help.

#### **Emergency Care:**

For emergencies, go to the nearest emergency room, even if it is not in-network.

#### **Non-Emergency Care**

If you are a Medi-Cal patient who is having trouble accessing non-emergency care due to the flooding or power outages, you can contact Bay Area Legal Aid’s Health Consumer Center for advice about your options. **The Health Consumer Center number is (855) 693-7285.**

### **Contacting Social Services:**

- You can contact your local county social services department with questions or requests.

### **Missing your EBT card?**

- You can ask that a replacement EBT card be mailed to you by calling (877) 328-9677. This takes about 5 business days.
- You can also get help replacing your card right away by contacting the local social services office by phone or in person. They can usually issue a new card the same day.

If you have questions regarding the above information, or have other legal issues involving housing rights, consumer rights, or the rights of domestic violence survivors, please call the Legal Advice Line for Bay Area Legal Aid at 1-800-551-5554.

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