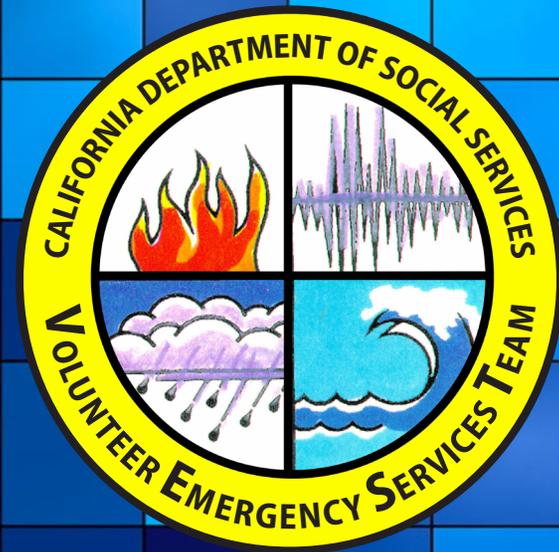




STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

PUB 461 (8/16)

# VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM VEST



Becoming a Volunteer Emergency Services Team (VEST) member gives State of California employees an opportunity to participate in emergency management activities following a disaster in California. The VEST members agree to be temporarily reassigned, if available, to the Disaster Services Bureau of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) during disaster response and recovery operations.



All VEST missions are initiated in response to a request for assistance from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). The VEST members deploy where needed or directed in California. The VEST members and their supervisors sign a Statement of Understanding (SOU) with CDSS. The SOU states that VEST members shall attend formal training classes for a maximum of ten working days each calendar year. Depending upon the assignment, deployments may last from five to 15 days, including travel time. A VEST member's home department pays for their regular 40-hour work week. The VEST program pays all overtime, travel and per diem.



Trainings offered to VEST members may be conducted by CDSS, Cal OES, the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the American Red Cross. Some training may be offered via webinar to reduce the need for VEST member travel. Additionally, there are many free online courses available.

Participation in VEST is voluntary. The VEST members may be asked to attend exercises, functions and other special activities. In addition to a VEST member being available and willing to deploy, their supervisor must also

grant permission for each deployment. The SOU can be terminated at any time by the VEST member, the member's supervisor or CDSS management.

If you are interested in becoming a VEST member, please contact the VEST program. The VEST program contact information is as follows:



**California Department of Social Services**  
**Attn: VEST Recruitment**  
**744 P Street, MS T9-3-143**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**  
**Or**  
**DisasterVEST@dss.ca.gov**

