



CDSS

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## ***Drought Food Assistance Program (DFAP) Fact Sheet May 2015***

**Background:** DFAP is the temporary program developed in response to Governor Brown's Drought Emergency Declaration in January 2014. DFAP is designed to provide food assistance to affected communities that suffer high levels of unemployment from the drought. CDSS established and has oversight of the on-going operation of the program. The first distribution of DFAP was in May 2014.

**Counties:** The Governor Drought Task Force (GTF) designated 24 counties as the most drought impacted. This was based on three criteria: 1) the USDA Drought Monitor designation as "extreme" or "exceptional", 2) an agricultural employment share above the state average, and 3) an unemployment rate above the state average. The 24 designated counties are: Amador, Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba. In early 2015, the Legislature added Imperial, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Riverside and Ventura counties to DFAP and funded the program through June of 2016.

**Funding:** The Legislature provided \$25.3 million in Fiscal Year 13/14 and \$20 million in Fiscal Year 14/15 and \$17 million in Fiscal Year 15/16 to purchase, box, ship and distribute DFAP food boxes. To date, CDSS has spent over \$21 million, and anticipates requesting \$17 million to continue DFAP distributions through June 2016.

**DFAP Allocations:** The DFAP food boxes were purchased and allocated to food banks in various phases. In the initial phase allocations were based on the formula used for the federal food assistance program, based on each county's poverty and unemployment rate. Subsequent allocations reflect actual demand in each county and include a set aside to deal with extraordinary demand.

**Shipment of DFAP Food Boxes:** CDSS has partnered with Foodlink to procure, pre-package and ship DFAP food boxes to the 29 GTF designated counties. Each box weighs about 25 pounds and serves households of four for 4-5 days.

**Eligibility:** Households are eligible if they reside in the geographical area impacted by drought, and are unemployed or underemployed as a result of the drought. Households self-certify and agree that the food received is for personal home use only.

**Distributions:** DFAP food boxes distributions vary by county and occur 1-4 times per month. As of May 1, 2015 DFAP counties have distributed over 575,000 DFAP food boxes to over 303,000 households, with an average of 51,000 food boxes per month. Over 70% of the food distributions have occurred in the Tulare Basin (Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare).

**Future:** CDSS is monitoring and assessing the potential need to extend DFAP if the severity of the drought continues.