

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



March 4, 1999

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NO. I-20-99

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☒ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☐ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: TREATMENT OF FINANCIAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS IN  
THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM AND THE CalWORKs PROGRAM

REFERENCE: WINTER FREEZE OF 1998

The purpose of this letter is to advise County Welfare Departments of the treatment of disaster assistance payments that are subject to the provisions of the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law (P.L.) 93-288 as amended by P.L. 100-707, Section 105(i), the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Amendments of November 23, 1988. The amendments set forth the types of disaster assistance payments precipitated by an emergency or major disaster, as defined in this Act, that cannot be considered as either income or resources when determining food stamp and CalWORKs eligibility and/or benefit levels.

As a result of damage to California's citrus industry due to the freeze that occurred in December of 1998, the Governor requested and the President issued a major disaster declaration for the counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, and Tulare. As a result of this declaration, households in these central counties have become potentially eligible for disaster assistance, including mortgage and rental assistance (e.g., from the Federal Emergency Management Agency), Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and other similar assistance. Such payments are excluded as resource and income for food stamp and CalWORKs eligibility and/or benefit level purposes since they are the types of assistance provided to victims of a major disaster that are covered by the Disaster Relief Act, as amended by P.L. 100-707. Moreover, the Food Stamp Program, and the CalWORKs Program exclude these disaster assistance payments and other comparable disaster assistance provided by states, local governments, and disaster assistance organizations per MMP 63-507(a)10, MMP 44-111.61(i), and MMP 42-213.515 in accordance with the amended Act.

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If you have any questions regarding the treatment of these payments for food stamp purposes, please contact Ernie Villalobos of the Policy Implementation Unit in the Food Stamp Bureau at (916) 657-1680. For CalWORKs, call Eugene Essex at (916) 654-3062.

Sincerely,

**Original document signed  
By Charr Lee Metsker on 3/4/99**

CHARR LEE METSKER, Chief  
Employment and Eligibility Branch