



STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

August 19, 2010

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

FROM: CHARR LEE METSKER
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is proud to announce an emergency energy assistance program available to needy families throughout California. This program is a one-time energy assistance program sponsored by the four major utilities companies which include Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG &E), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas). This program will be administered through The Salvation Army (TSA) offices statewide with funding from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund (ECF) and utility company funds. Those eligible families facing utility disconnection may receive an energy credit up to \$1500 per household based on the total past due amount of their bill.

The purpose of this letter is to provide information on this newly created program and request a letter of expressed interest from county welfare directors or their authorized representative to participate in this program. When Assembly Bill X4 4 (Chapter 4, Statutes of the Fourth Extraordinary Session of 2009) passed in July 2009, it only provided counties the authority to use the federal TANF ECF for non-recurring short-term benefits. It is for this reason that CDSS must have written consent from each interested county to delegate authority to the Department to operate this program on its behalf. Participating counties will not bear any financial responsibility with the administration of this program. All funding has been provided by the TANF ECF and the four participating utility companies. Along with the financial responsibilities, TSA and the utility companies are also responsible for maintaining proper records on the use of the TANF ECF for this program in the event that a federal audit arises.

Participation in the Emergency Energy Assistance Program

To participate in this program, each county is required to provide the CDSS with a letter using the enclosed template language (Attachment 1) expressing its interest

and delegating authority to the Department to administer this program on the county's behalf. Also enclosed is a list of service areas for the four major participating utilities companies (Attachment 2). There are three counties that are not served by the four utility companies so a letter of interest will not be required from those counties. An All County Information Notice will be released shortly that will provide guidance to counties on how to assist families that may qualify for this temporary program. TANF ECF is due to expire on September 30, 2010, so it is imperative that each interested county provide the CDSS with a letter expressing their interest and delegating their authority to the Department by September 3, 2010 to take full advantage of the money that has been allocated to this program. Please send the letter to:

The California Department of Social Services
Attn: Welfare to Work Division/Employment Bureau
744 P Street Mail Station 8-8-33
Sacramento, CA 95814

Background

In response to the economic crisis in California and the recent increase in energy utility disconnections, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued its Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) to reexamine utility disconnection practices and to identify solutions that avoid unnecessary disconnections. The CPUC authorized utility companies to increase their budgets for providing financial assistance to their low-income customers under the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program and also required the utility companies to use the increased funds to seek matching funds to help eligible low-income families pay their energy utility bills in order to prevent utility disconnections.

Over the past several months, the CDSS collaborated with the CPUC, TSA, and the four major California utility providers to develop an agreement between CDSS and TSA to assist needy families in California at risk of utility disconnections. This agreement was fully executed on June 30, 2010 in the amount of \$40 million using monies from the TANF ECF. The agreement outlines the procedural and financial roles and responsibilities of each party to provide assistance that will prevent the disconnection of utilities for needy families including California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids program recipients and families whose income is less than 200 percent of the official federal poverty level applicable to its family size.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Kären Dickerson, Chief, Employment and Eligibility Branch at (916) 651-6562. If you would like a copy of the fully executed agreement between CDSS and TSA, please contact Laurence Lewis at (916) 654-0699 or email laurence.lewis@dss.ca.gov.

Attachments

County Letterhead Here

August XX, 2010

TO: JOHN WAGNER
Director
Department of Social Services

FROM: (NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE)
(TITLE OF REPRESENTATIVE)
(NAME OF COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT)

SUBJECT: **CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

In accordance with the All County Welfare Directors Letter sent on August 5, 2010, this letter is to express (COUNTY NAME)'s interest in participating in a statewide emergency energy assistance program and delegates to the California Department of Social Services and The Salvation Army (TSA) the duties of the county with regard to establishing and administering a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund emergency energy assistance program in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code section 10545(b) (1) (B). We also assign to TSA the right to receive advances and reimbursement in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code section 10545(h) for the energy assistance program on behalf of the county.

Signature of County Authorized Representative

Date

Printed Name and Title

CC: CHARR LEE METSKER
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

Temporary Energy Assistance
for Families (TEAF) Program
Utility Coverage by County

County	Pacific Gas & Electric	Southern California Edison Company	San Diego Gas & Electric	Southern California Gas Company
Alameda	X			
Alpine	X			
Amador	X			
Butte	X			
Calaveras	X			
Colusa	X			
Contra Costa	X			
Del Norte	NO	COVERAGE	IN	AREA
El Dorado	X			
Fresno	X			X
Glenn	X			
Humboldt	X			
Imperial		X		X
Inyo		X		
Kern	X	X		X
Kings	X	X		X
Lake	X			
Lassen	X			
Los Angeles		X		X
Madera	X			
Marin	X			
Mariposa	X			
Mendocino	X			
Merced	X			
Modoc	NO	COVERAGE	IN	AREA
Mono		X		
Monterey	X			
Napa	X			
Nevada	X			
Orange		X	X	X
Placer	X			

Temporary Energy Assistance
for Families (TEAF) Program
Utility Coverage by County

County	Pacific Gas & Electric	Southern California Edison Company	San Diego Gas & Electric	Southern California Gas Company
Plumas	X			
Riverside		X		X
Sacramento	X			
San Benito	X			
San Bernardino	X	X		X
San Diego			X	
San Francisco	X			
San Joaquin	X			
San Luis Obispo	X			X
San Mateo	X			
Santa Barbara	X	X		X
Santa Clara	X			
Santa Cruz	X			
Shasta	X			
Sierra	X			
Siskiyou	NO	COVERAGE	IN	AREA
Solano	X			
Sonoma	X			
Stanislaus	X			
Sutter	X			
Tehama	X			
Trinity	X			
Tulare	X	X		X
Tuolumne	X			
Ventura		X		X
Yolo	X			
Yuba	X			