

## Social Security Benefits

**For paper checks:** The U.S. Postal Service has suspended mail service in some areas of Louisiana and Mississippi. If you usually get your check in the mail, it may have been returned to Social Security.

For a replacement check, you can go to any Social Security office and ask for an immediate payment.

**For direct deposit:** If you get your Social Security payment by direct deposit, your money should go to your account as usual. If you have any trouble getting your money, you can go to any Social Security office and ask for a replacement check.

For more information and to find the nearest Social Security office, you can call (800) 722-1213. TTY: (800) 325-0778. Louisiana victims can call (888) LAHELPU.

**Restaurant meals:** If you are on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and cannot cook for yourself (you do not have a kitchen, etc), ask SSA about the California meal supplement. You can get up to \$100 per month extra to pay for your meals.

**On SSI in other states:** *you should notify SSA of your change of address, so you can get the higher California benefit rate*

**On Social Security in other states:** If you got Social Security in your other state, **and** your income is under \$832/single or \$1457/couple, *apply for SSI* in California. If you do so before the 1st of the month, you will get the current month's benefits.

### IMPORTANT RESOURCE NUMBERS

**FEMA:** (800) 621-3362

**FEMA Website:** [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

**American Red Cross:** (800) 229-8181

**Sacramento Department of**

**Human Assistance:** (916) 874-2072

# LSNC



Fighting for Fairness  
Promoting Justice.

## “CAPI” Benefits

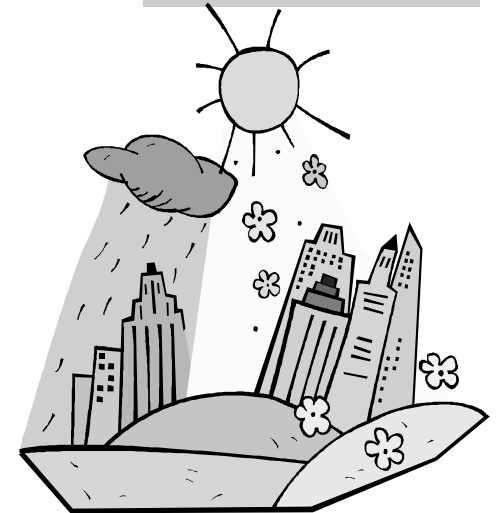
- California provides benefits to aged, blind, or disabled immigrants legally in the US. If you think you may qualify, apply with DHA and ask for our separate CAPI flyer.
- As an evacuee, you considered a resident of California. If eligible, your first payment won't begin until the first of the month following your arrival, but will be retroactive to the month of application.
- If you have no other documentation, you may prove your income and resources through a declaration
- The rules about “in-Kind” income won't apply if you lived independently before, but now are living with others or in a shelter.
- Any Disaster Assistance you get to replace lost or stolen items also won't count.

## IF YOU ARE DENIED ASSISTANCE FOR OR NEED HELP WITH THESE PROGRAMS,

Legal Services of Northern California  
515—12th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 551-2150  
Fax: (916) 551-2196  
[sacramento\\_office@lsnc.net](mailto:sacramento_office@lsnc.net)

## Information for Hurricane Katrina Survivors In California



Adapted from Neighborhood Legal Services  
of Los Angeles ©2005

## Emergency Money and Other Programs to Help Hurricane Victims

### For Families With Children CalWORKs

(California's TANF program)

Your family can get CalWORKs money if you meet resource and eligibility requirements.

You must be a "resident" of California to get money. You are a "resident" if you **plan to live in California for the foreseeable future.**

The amount of money you get depends on the number of people in your household. A 3 person household can get up to \$723 per month.

To get CalWORKs, you should apply at any Department of Human Assistance (DHS) office. DHA will take your application for Food Stamps and Medi-cal (CA's Medicaid program) when you apply for CalWORKs.

You do not need a photo I.D. to apply. DHA will take your word about who you are and your need for money.

–**CalWORKs Immediate Need:** You may be able to get a \$200 advance on your first CalWORKs check so you do not have to wait a long time to get some money.

–**Non-recurring Special Needs:** If you are on CalWORKs and a victim of the disaster, you can get up to \$600 for special needs to replace clothing and household items. To get CalWORKs Special Needs you must have less than \$100 in *available* savings. (If you can't get at your money it shouldn't count.)

–**Homeless Assistance:** If you do not have a permanent place to live (if you are staying in a shelter or with friends or family), DHA will

consider you to be homeless. If you are homeless, have no more than \$100, and are eligible for CalWORKs, you can get:

- Money for a hotel– \$40 per day for up to 16 days
- Once you are approved for CalWORKs, you can get money for move-in costs (last month's rent, cleaning deposits, utility deposits)

### Free or Low Cost Medical Care

If you need medical care, you can get free or low cost care from one of the County hospitals. Call (916) 874-8912 for the nearest County hospital or clinic. Contact DHA if you have Medicaid from the state you left.

### Food Stamps

– If you already were getting Food Stamps in your state, you can use your EBT card in Sacramento. If you have lost your EBT card, you can call:

**Louisiana:** 1-888-524-3578

**Mississippi:** 1-866-449-9488

**Alabama:** 1-800-997-8888

– If you *weren't* on food stamps in your home state, apply with DHA for "Expedited Food Stamps" for three day processing.

### Cash for Single Adults

Adults with no children can apply for General Relief (GR), a county program that gives cash aid of \$221 per month. You should apply at a DHA office.

### Housing Information

For information on using your **Section 8 voucher** or **public housing assistance** from another state, call (800) 955-2232. For information on how to use your **Rural Housing** money, call (800) 414-1226.

## Unemployment Money From Your Home State

–You may be able to get regular unemployment benefits from your state. If not, you might be able to get disaster unemployment benefits.

–You can apply for **Louisiana Unemployment Compensation Benefits** online at [www.ldol.state.la.us](http://www.ldol.state.la.us). You can also call (888) LAHELPU, (888) 524-3578, or (866) 783-5567.

–You can apply for **Alabama Unemployment Compensation** by phone at (866) 767-8103.

–*Right now*, you must apply for **Mississippi's Unemployment Insurance** in person in Mississippi. An 800 number will be available at a later time.

–You can also get information on filing for benefits and office locations by calling (877) US-2JOBS.

–You can get **Disaster Unemployment Benefits** if you are self-employed, were about to begin working, became the breadwinner of your family because of the disaster, or did not work long enough to get regular state unemployment benefits. You usually have 30 days from the date your state was declared a disaster to apply. Here are specific state deadlines:

**Louisiana:** October 7<sup>th</sup>

**Alabama:** September 27<sup>th</sup>

**Mississippi:** September 28<sup>th</sup>

You can get more information on disaster benefits from your state's unemployment number or at [www.nelp.org/ui/federal/initiatives/duakatrina.cf](http://www.nelp.org/ui/federal/initiatives/duakatrina.cf).