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News Release

Disaster Unemployment Assistance Available for California Residents Affected by Recent Storms and Flooding

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Residents who have lost work as a result of damages from the snow and ice from the severe winter storms, the flooding, landslides and mudslides that took place in February and March may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA).

Residents who live or work in of **Kern, Mariposa, Monterey, San Benito, San Bernardino, Santa Cruz, Tulare and Tuolumne** may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance from the California Employment Development Department. Self-employed, unemployed and part-time workers may qualify. In addition, residents who were unable to reach their place of business because the disaster prevented their travel, or those who were scheduled to begin work, but couldn't because of the storms, may also apply.

The Disaster Unemployment Assistance program is funded by FEMA and operated by the California Employment Development Department. To file a claim, [Apply and Manage Your Claim Online \(ca.gov\)](#) or call **1-800-300-5616** Monday through Friday from **8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** (Pacific Time). The deadline to file an application is **May 15**.

For the latest information on California's recovery from the severe winter storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides, visit [FEMA.gov/disaster/4699](#) or [FEMA.gov/disaster/4683](#)... You may also follow [twitter.com/Cal_OES](#), [facebook.com/CaliforniaOES](#), [@FEMARegion9/Twitter](#) and [Facebook.com/FEMA](#).

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FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

All FEMA disaster assistance will be provided without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, disability, limited English proficiency or economic status. If you believe your civil rights are being violated, call the Civil Rights Resource line at 833-285-7448.

Recently, U.S. SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman [announced a policy change granting 12 months of no payments and 0% interest](#). This pertains to all disaster loans approved in response to disasters declared on or after September 21, 2022,

through September 30, 2023. This policy change will benefit disaster survivors and help them to decrease the overall cost of recovery by reducing the amount of accrued interest they must repay.

The U.S. Small Business Administration is the federal government's primary source of funds for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private, nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters, fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/>. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 711 to access telecommunications relay services.