



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NUMBER: 21-05
DATE: August 19, 2021

CONTACT: Norman Williams
(916) 440-7660
www.dhcs.ca.gov

STATE DEPARTMENTS PROMOTE HEALTH CARE AND OTHER AID AS FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ARE SET TO EXPIRE NEXT MONTH

SACRAMENTO – As people across the nation face the end of federal unemployment benefits next month, California state departments and agencies are joining together to encourage eligible workers to apply for vital public benefit programs that offer free or low-cost health coverage, provide money to pay for food, and pay rent and utilities.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), Covered California, the Department of Managed Health Care, the Employment Development Department (EDD), Housing and Community Development, the Department of Social Services, and other state agencies and departments are working together to proactively continue helping people.

Although federal unemployment benefits will soon end for many unemployed Californians, the [American Rescue Plan](#) and [California Comeback](#) have substantially expanded other vital benefits that continue to help eligible California families:

- Health insurance—free or low-cost coverage (as low as \$1 per month for workers who received unemployment benefits) through Covered California and Medi-Cal (coveredca.com or by phone at 1-800-300-1506).
- Cash aid for families with children (CalWORKs) through county human services agencies at BenefitsCal.org (where people can also apply for food assistance [CalFresh] and free health coverage [Medi-Cal]).
- Up to \$234 per person per month for food via CalFresh (GetCalFresh.org or by phone at 1-877-847-3663), whether a person is working or not.
- Money for rent and utilities, including 100 percent rent and utilities, via Housing is Key (HousingIsKey.com or by phone at 1-833-430-2122).
- [Golden State Stimulus](#) payments for millions of qualified residents who file taxes, even if not required (by phone at 1-800-845-6500).

Individuals already enrolled in Medi-Cal or a Covered California health plan should report changes in unemployment benefits because this could lower their cost of health coverage.

~more~

California recently posted links to [GetCalFresh.org](https://www.getcalfresh.org) through its unemployment benefits website, which has boosted food stamp applications by 100,000 people this summer. CalFresh beneficiaries will also soon receive a significant [increase](#) in food benefits, thanks to [action](#) taken by the federal government.

September 4 is the [expiration date of most federal unemployment benefits](#), including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Pandemic Unemployment Emergency Compensation, the \$300 federal supplement under the Federal Additional Compensation (also known as Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation), and Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation. September 11, 2021, is the end of the Federal-State Extended Duration. EDD has provided resources to help claimants find jobs and get job training at the [Returning to Work](#) webpage, including CalJOBS, a no-cost virtual job center with more than a million job listings from private boards and recruitment sites.

State departments are working with stakeholders and partners across the state to help get the word out on social media about the many other vital benefit programs using #TogetherWeBenefit.

Attached is a fact sheet with information about the end of federal unemployment benefits and key benefit programs currently available in California.

###