



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

September 18, 2020

Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter No.: I 20-28

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY WELFARE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS  
ALL COUNTY MEDI-CAL PROGRAM SPECIALISTS/LIAISONS

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REGARDING THE DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (REFERENCE MEDI-CAL ELIGIBILITY DIVISION INFORMATION LETTER I [19-03](#))

The purpose of this Medi-Cal Eligibility Division Information Letter (MEDIL) is to remind counties of the treatment of Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) payments for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) and Non-MAGI Medi-Cal.

### Background

On August 22, 2020, the President declared a federal disaster in response to the California wildfires that provides DUA benefits for individuals who do not qualify for regular state unemployment insurance, Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Federal-State Extended Duration (FED-ED) extensions, or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits.

DUA is a federal program that provides financial assistance to jobless and self-employed workers when they are unemployed as a direct result of a major natural disaster such as hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water or tidal wave, earthquake, drought, fire or other catastrophe, declared by the President to warrant government assistance to communities and individuals.

The DUA program is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor and State Employment Security Agencies under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974, as amended by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act of 1988.

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## **Policy**

In accordance with Title 42 United States Code §1382a(a)(2)(B), unemployment benefits are considered income. DUA benefits are a form of unemployment benefits that are based on disaster relief and emergency assistance, and therefore treated as income. DUA is countable income for both the MAGI as outlined in the MAGI Income and Deductions Types table and Non-MAGI Medi-Cal, as well as for Covered California. DUA benefits are not exempt and must be counted in the income eligibility determination for both MAGI and Non-MAGI programs. For Covered California programs, DUA will count as taxable income for Advanced Premium Tax Credit/state subsidies in the eligibility determination.

If you have any questions, or if we can provide further information, please contact Bonnie Tran by phone at (916) 345-8063 or by email at [Bonnie.Tran@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:Bonnie.Tran@dhcs.ca.gov).

Original Signed by

Sandra Williams, Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility Division