**Programs from California community action agencies**

Struggling and low income families in California can receive help from their local community action agency. Dozens of locations operate across the state, and they are in every county. Each center is a non-profit organization that is focused on helping the less fortunate and low income families. While they may have some short term emergency assistance for needs such as bills, food, and housing, the main goal of each agency is to help California residents overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. So they organize job training and employment services. Each location will offer its own programs based on funding and resources, so it is recommended to call to get the specifics.

**Grants and financial assistance**

Many community action agencies and partnerships process applications for the Pacific Gas and Electric Energy Savings Assistance Program. It can provide income qualified customers free weatherization measures, energy education, and even appliances that can help them reduce gas and electric usage and therefore save money. For example, some programs and people may even qualify for new energy-efficient refrigerators at no charge to them. Some of the weatherization measures offered may include free compact fluorescent lamps, caulking, weather-stripping, attic insulation, and installation of showerheads.

Apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program. This federal government utility bill assistance program provides one cash grant to low-income persons for paying their energy bills. Customers apply for the financial assistance through their local community action partnership location. Case managers will determine customer eligibility and the exact amount of cash payment to be made to the utility company based on state of California and federal government guidelines.

A similar service is the Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP). This is for low-income customers and seniors that have received a 48-hour shut off notice from their energy provider. Or emergency assistance can be paid out to those senior citizens or disabled persons that have received a 15-Day Shut Off Notice. Not only will it help those California families with a disconnect notice, but it can also offer assistance to customers in obtaining firewood and propane. Grants may also be paid out, as funding allows, for the repair or replacement of heating systems or your air conditioner.

Government and financial assistance may be offered. Many are state of California or federal government programs. Learn more or apply for at an agency. Some of the primary resources are here.

CalWORKs is a cash aid program that helps lower income and working poor families in need because of the absence of a parent, reduction in hours or unemployment. A cash grant is paid out based on your family size and income.

General Assistance Program is more of a last resort. The state provides cash assistance to needy residents who have no other means of financial support and who do not qualify for other non-profit or public aid.

Medical bill assistance and health care can be provided by Medi-Cal. Case managers at your local community action agency can often refer families to this, and it cares for low-income adults, children and elderly persons. Some of the assistance programs offered by California under Medi-Cal include assistance for Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD); Long Term Care; Board and Care; Asset Waiver Medi-Cal for children; County Medical Services Program (CMSP); and Healthy Families.

Rent and Homeless Assistance may be provided to CalWORKs beneficiaries. If you do not have a normal place to stay or are facing imminent eviction, then apply to your community action partnership for payment for your housing costs. When a person or family is no longer homeless and finds a place to stay, the state may also offer financial assistance to help the individual with paying a security deposit and the rent for the first or the most recent, past month. Generally, any first month’s rent assistance and eviction prevention programs are available from several federal or non-profit grant sources; therefore funds are usually limited. Most agencies will also require that clients need to be able to demonstrate the ability to continue rental obligation after receiving help.

Homeless motel voucher assistance also relies on grants from different sources. Clients can be assisted under this short term program for 1 to 30 days. Importantly, any recipients must be willing to make efforts towards becoming self-sufficient over the long term in order to receive continued assistance.

**Self-sufficiency from community action agencies**

The Community Services Block Grant funds are one of the main resources offered. The grant program allows the organizations to help farm workers and the working poor deal with a number of situations and crises. Funds will help those who are suffering from poverty and/or extreme educational deficits. Some of the services offered include job training and placement services.

As part of this process, a case manager will offer an assessment of each client. You will be assigned to a specialist who will continue to case-manage clients. Advice for long term success will be provided, as well as the possibility of emergency assistance such as rental payments, food, shelter. Or if a community action agency can’t help you, then they may offer a referral to other non-profit agencies in surrounding towns and cities.

CalWORKs Emergency Payment Program is tasked with offering advocacy and cash payments. Any aid offered is for CalWORKS participants and it needs to go towards the continuation of their educational and employment goals.

**Education, employment assistance and job training**

Many educational type programs are offered. Most services are focused on helping customers to increase employability.

English As A Second Language, or ESL, provides basic vocational and daily life English survival skills. What can be addressed are skills that are directed toward communication of basic needs and wants, ability to understand simple directions, and similar services.

Job Placement Assistance is provided by many local community action agencies. Get help in locating entry-level positions in the employment fields desired by the client of the non-profit organization. Most positions will be in your local town or county. The primary objective of the various job programs are to help people find and secure meaningful and productive employment for lower income and/or unemployed individuals. All clients of an agency are provided career counseling and job search skills, and can assist with helping people develop personal and vocational skills necessary for fulfilling full time or part time employment. For more information on employment assistance in California, click here.

A main program is Family Self-Sufficiency. This was created to assist families and individuals who are currently participating in the Section 8 housing voucher program. Almost all community action agencies administer some type of Self-Sufficiency Program, and they can help individuals find employment, case managers teach parenting and life skills. All of this is done while participants become independent of all California government assistance over a period of time.

Other services include advocacy, guidance, and referrals for clients of a community action agency. People can be given information about local food banks, rental assistance programs, legal aid, energy bill assistance programs, or consumer advocacy services.

The agencies will work with a variety of public and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions as well as local businesses to ensure that educational enhancement and placement services meet the needs of the residents of California.

The Workforce Investment Act as well as a local Office for Employment Training will provide a comprehensive array of services to both employers and job seekers. These centers offer many services, tools and resources to people trying to find a job, or gain a new skill. A number of workshops and classes are available to improve a person’s job skills in interviewing skills, career planning, job search strategies, and resume writing. Services can include Youth Employment Program, Veterans Resources, Cal-Learn, and many others.

**Community action agency food programs**

Most community action agencies also have information on local food banks or pantries. Any items are distributed based on the applicant’s family size and on what is needed to makes a nutritionally-balanced diet. The CalFresh or Food Stamp Program offers families, especially those with children, free food and meals. It is also called SNAP, and it can add resources to your monthly food budget to put healthy and nutritious meals on the table.

**Programs for children, infants and students**

Preschool programs and assistance includes Head Start and California State Preschool. These are designed to give children from low income families a meaningful head start in their education. Programs were also designed to take into consideration a family’s ethnic and cultural heritage, with a strong emphasis placed on the parent’s role in providing education.

Services are also focused on early reading and math skills in a safe and caring. The early education programs in California prepare students for a lifetime of academic success.

Head Start supports qualified children in several ways, including offering nutritious, delicious meals and snacks, setting up classes at school or in your home, and do what it takes to help children obtain successful learning. Infant and Toddler Care Programs as well as Early Head Start were designed for low-income families with young children, infants and toddlers up to age three. It can also support pregnant women. Resources can promote healthy prenatal care for pregnant women, supports consistent, caring relationships, and help enhance the development of very young children.

The Summer Food Services Program will help students and teenagers during the summer, when they do not have access to school lunches or breakfasts. For those students and children who rely on free or reduced-price school meals, usually the end of the school year means they have to worry about where their next meal is coming from, and this is when the summer food program can help. Low-income children, under the age of 19, can receive a free nutritious meal or snack during summer break from the Summer Food Services Program (SFSP).

School Age Child Care provides childcare to working parents or people who are in job training. Children can receive free or low cost, yet high quality care during holidays and vacations, before and after school, and other critical times of the year.

**Seniors can be supported by community action agencies**

Healthy at Home or Meals on Wheels are home-delivered, fresh, healthy homemade meals provided for the elderly and seniors. Clients need to find it difficult or impossible, to travel away from their homes for their own food. For many people, the delivery driver is also their only company of the day, so people also get companionship.

Healthy Table or congregate meals are offered at host sites in California. Participants are served free healthy, nutritious meals. In addition to the lunchtime or dinner companionship, the seniors can also participate in recreational activities. Turn to these warm and friendly places to meet and eat together.

Senior Services Programs can improve the quality of life of senior citizens in the community and extend the time they are able to live independently. Volunteers and staff from your local agencies can provide minor home repairs and installations such as grab bars, make friendly visits, deliver meals and more.

**Additional services**

The mission of community action agencies Mental Health Programs are to provide an atmosphere of warmth and caring to those people who are suffering from a mental illness. Case managers and public health care can help people reach their highest potential and obtain the attention they need.

Some local community action partnerships participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA provides free federal and state of California tax filing services for working individuals and low income families.

 **Locations of community action agencies**

The list below is the main center for the county. There are usually a number of satellite offices around the state as well.

**Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency**

Location is 935 South State Highway 49

Jackson, California 95642-2646

209-223-1485

**Berkeley Community Action Agency**

Address - 2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor

Berkeley, CA 94704

510-981-5416

**Calaveras, Mariposa Community Action Agency**

Mail address is P.O. Box 99

Mariposa, CA 95338

209-966-3609

**Campesinos Unidos, Inc.**

Brawley, California 92227

760-351-5100

*The southern California region and counties of San Diego and Imperial are supported by this community action agency. Assistance programs offered include weatherization, electric bill assistance, job training, food, and much more.*

**Central Valley Opportunity Center of Stanislaus County**

Winton, California 95388

209-357-0062

**City of Los Angeles Community Development Department**

Main address is 1200 W. 7th Street

Los Angeles, CA 90014

213-744-7300

**Colusa-Glenn-Trinity Community Action Partnership**

Main address is 420 E. Laurel Street

Willows, CA 95988

530-934-6514

*Residents of Colusa, Glenn, and Trinity can call this location. While the focus is on job and employment services, they also run a food bank for California families and have other support.*

**Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc.**

2255 Del Oro Avenue

Oroville, CA 95965

530-712-2600

**Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.**

406 Main Street, Suite 207

Watsonville, California 95076

831-763-2147

*Both Monterey and Santa Cruz County are supported. Get more details on the Santa Cruz community action agency*.

**Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County**

5638 Hollister Avenue, Suite 230

Goleta, CA 93117

805-964-8857

*Apply for HEAP energy assistance. Receive referrals, case management, and poverty fighting programs and services*.

**Community Action Marin**

29 Mary Street

San Rafael, California 94901

415-485-1489

**Community Action of Napa Valley**

Office location - 2310 Laurel Street, Suite 1

Napa, CA 94559

707-253-6100

**Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo, Inc.**

1030 Southwood Drive

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

805-544-4355

**Community Action Partnership of Kern**

300 19th Street

Bakersfield, California 93301-4906

661-336-5236

*Assistance is offered in other languages such as Spanish. Resources are offered for low income families, the working poor, seniors, and others. Food, case management, and self-sufficiency is provided by social workers from this community action agency.*

**Community Action Partnership of Madera County**

1225 Gill Avenue

Madera, CA 93637

Telephone number is (559) 673-9173

**Community Action Partnership of Orange County, Inc.**

11870 Monarch Street

Garden Grove, CA 92841

Main telephone: (714) 897-6670

*Helps families, individuals, disabled, and seniors across all of Orange County California*.

**Community Action Partnership of Riverside County**

2038 Iowa Avenue, Suite B-102

Riverside, California 92507

951-955-4900

*Housing assistance, energy bill funds, and other financial aid is available. Or look into employment and job training programs.*

**Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County (CAPSBC)**

696 S. Tippecanoe Avenue

San Bernardino, CA 92415-0610

909-723-1500

*Thousands of low income families, seniors, and other turn to the non-profit. Food, information on job training, grants for rent or utilities and other aid is available*.

**Community Action Partnership of San Diego**

1700 Pacific Highway, MS P-509

San Diego, CA 92101-7439

1-866-262-9881

*Assistance offered included Head Start, ESL, job programs, and limited financial aid. Get information on emergency rental assistance, and resources offered by PGE for paying utility bills*.

**Community Action Partnership of Solano**

Address: 1545 N. Texas Street, Suite 201

Fairfield, California 94533

707-422-8810

**Community Action Agency and Partnership of Sonoma County**

1300 N. Dutton Avenue

Santa Rosa, California 95401

707-544-6911

*Numerous assistance programs are available. They include LIHEAP, information on government benefits such as Cal-Fresh, employment programs, and more*.

**Community Action Partnership of Ventura County**

621 Richmond Avenue

Oxnard, CA 93030

805-436-4000

*Supports migrants and working poor. Food assistance, CalWork, housing, and career counseling are some of the services offered. Loans may pay for home repairs. Housing assistance may be offered too, including rent and security deposit assistance from the Homeless Transition Center*.

**Community Services and Employment Training (C-SET)**

312 N.W. 3rd Avenue

Visalia, California 93279

559-732-4194

**Contra Costa County, EHS, Community Services Bureau**

40 Douglas Drive

Martinez, CA 94553

Telephone: (925) 313-1551

925-313-1772

**Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco**

1426 Fillmore Street, Suite 301

San Francisco, CA 94115

415-749-3971

*Assistance for housing, rent, and homeless prevention. Also apply for public aid, including food stamps or health care. Many programs are administered for the northern California region*.

**El Dorado County Department of Community Services**

3057 Briw Road, Suite A

Placerville, California 95667

530-642-7300

*This government agency also serves as the regional community action agency. Clients can apply for California programs such as CalFresh, section 8, home repair loans and other aid*.

**Foothill Unity Center Inc.**

Primary location is 415 W. Chestnut Avenue

Monrovia, CA 91016

626-358-3486

**Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission**

Address is 1920 Mariposa Mall, Suite 300

Fresno, CA 93721-2526

559-263-1010

**Inyo-Mono Advocates for Community Action, Inc.**

P.O. Box 845

Bishop, CA 93514

760-873-8557

*Offers programs in Alpine, Inyo, and Mono.*

**Kings Community Action Organization, Inc.**

1130 N. 11th Avenue

Hanford, CA 93230-5998

559-582-4386

**Lassen-Plumas-Sierra Community Action Agency**

P.O. Box 319

Quincy, California 95971

530-283-2466

*Families of the counties of Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra can apply for assistance from this non-profit*.

**Long Beach Community Action Partnership**

Address: 3012 Long Beach Boulevard

Long Beach, CA 90807

562-216-4600

*This non-profit supports the immediate Long Beach region. Emergency assistance and social services may be available.*

**Los Angeles Community Action Board**

Location is 12820 Crossroads Parkway South

City of Industry, CA 91746-3411

562-908-5715

*This is another organization for the unemployed and those faced with poverty in Los Angeles. Get help with finding a job, and applying for programs such as medical care, rental assistance, and other aid. Programs, available by referrals to other agencies, include Homeless Services that can help stop evictions by issuing grants for paying rent. There are also applications for benefits such as CalFresh, information on weatherization or energy bill assistance, and many employment services.*

**Merced County Community Action Agency**

Main address - P.O. Box 2085

Merced, CA 95344

209-723-4565

**Modoc-Siskiyou County Community Action Agency**

Address - 2060 Campus Drive

Yreka, California 96097

530-841-2761

**Monterey County Community Action Partnership**

Main address - 1000 S. Main Street, Suite 301

Salinas, CA 93901

831-755-8492

*Northern California individuals, seniors, and families with children can turn to this agency for support. The agency supports Monterey County California.*

**Nevada County Housing and Community Services**

950 Maidu Avenue

Nevada City, CA 95959

530-265-1388.

*The focus is on homeless prevention, home improvements, and similar social services.*

**North Coast Opportunities, Inc.**

413 North State Street

Ukiah, CA 95482

707-462-1954

*If you live in Humboldt, Mendocino, Solano, Sonoma, or Yolo County, call this non-profit for referrals and assistance.*

**Oakland Community Action Partnership-Alameda County**

150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4340

Oakland, CA 94612-2019

888-886-9660

*Dozens of programs are available for low income, seniors, and the less fortunate. They range from government food programs and pantries to funds for paying for housing costs such as utilities and rent. A key focus is also on self-sufficiency, job training, and credit counseling. The programs are not run directly by the agency but instead partner agencies administer them to the public. Call 888-886-9660, or read Oakland-Alameda Community Action Agency.*

**Placer County Adult System of Care/Health & Human Services**

Location is 11512 B Avenue

Auburn, California 95603

530-889-7217

**Redwood Community Action Agency of Humboldt**

904 G Street

Eureka, CA 95501

707-445-0881

**Sacramento Employment & Training Agency (SETA)**

927 Del Paso Boulevard

Sacramento, California 95815

916-263-3800

*A number of career counseling services, job training, and similar programs are offered. Also get information on housing, emergency energy and rent help, and food programs.*

**Sacred Heart Community Service of Santa Clara**

Location is 1381 South First Street

San Jose, CA 95110

831-636-4180

*The non-profit administers programs for housing and other needs. Low income families may receive rent or security deposit assistance, transitional housing, or shelter. A food pantry, clothing closet, and family support services are available.*

**San Benito County Community Services and Workforce Development**

Address - 1111 San Felipe Road, Suite 108

Hollister, CA 95023

831-637-9293

**San Joaquin County HSA - Adult Services**

P.O. Box 201056

Stockton, CA 95201

209-468-2202

**Shasta County Community Action Agency**

1450 Court Street, Suite 108

Redding, CA 96001-1661

916-225-5160

**Sutter County Community Action Agency**

P.O. Box 757

Yuba City, California 95992-0757

530-741-6385

*Focuses on the struggling and jobless. Emergency assistance may be offered, but most people will mostly receive referrals and/or case management services.*

**Tehama County Community Action Agency**

Red Bluff, CA 96080

530-527-6159

**Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services**

25 North Cottonwood Street

Woodland, CA 95695

530-661-2753

**Yuba County Community Development and Services Agency**

915 8th Street, Suite 130

Marysville, California 95901

530-749-5430.

*The agency can help low income families. Services include energy assistance, self-sufficiency, employment programs, and application site for government assistance.*