



**CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
MEMBER BENEFITS DEPARTMENT**

DATE: December 22, 2010

TO: Kern, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo and Tualre Counties
Chapter Presidents
Regional Representative(s)
Field Directors

COPY: Board of Directors
Dave Low, Executive Director
Steve Fraga, Director Field Operations
Denise Jensen, Senior Executive Manager
Frank Polito, Director Public Relations

FROM: Jody Bell, Director of Member Benefits

**SUBJECT: DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR CSEA MEMBERS and STAFF AFFECTED BY
EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.**

The Governor has declared a state of emergency in Kern, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, and Tulare Counties due to extreme weather; thereby initiating the availability of CSEA relief funds from the **DOROTHY BJORK ASSISTANCE FUND.**

CSEA members in good standing and staff affected by the extreme weather may be eligible for one or both of the disaster assistance programs funded by the Dorothy Bjork Assistance Fund.

- **Emergency Assistance Program** – Provides immediate emergency funds for **temporary housing, clothing, food, etc.** to eligible CSEA members and staff whose primary place of residence is uninhabitable as a result of the disaster. Applicants' primary place of residence must be deemed uninhabitable and partially or temporarily condemned by an official agency (such as Fire, Police, and/or Building Departments). **The maximum assistance under this program is \$1,000 per applicant.**

The request for assistance may be requested via telephone, written application (CSEA website) or other communication to the South Bay Field Office or CSEA Headquarters-Member Benefits Department. The request can be made by the eligible person or from the Chapter President, Regional Representative, or CSEA employee on behalf of the eligible person. **Requests for Emergency Assistance must be submitted by January 22, 2011.**

The Field Director shall confer with the Chapter President, Regional Representative, and/or Area Director regarding each request and shall determine the amount of assistance to be provided to each eligible applicant. The Field Director can **immediately** disperse the funds to approved applicants.

Also, if the applicant has suffered a net loss in excess of what is covered by insurance of \$2,500 or more, s/he could also apply for assistance from the Dorothy Bjork Assistance Fund as described herein.

- **Disaster Assistance Program** - Provides assistance to eligible members and staff for uninsured loss (must provide proof of insurance) as a result of the declared disaster. "Loss" means loss of real or personal property only, the replacement costs of which are in excess of that covered by insurance or not reimbursable from other sources. "Loss" does not include loss of income or personal or bodily injury. Applicants must have suffered a minimum net loss of \$2,500.

Applicants must complete the Disaster Assistance Application-CSEA Form 1061 (enclosed). Upon completion, the application should be sent to CSEA Headquarters-Member Benefits Department. **Requests for Disaster Assistance must be received by April 4, 2010.**

By **April 15, 2011**, the Disaster Assistance Fund Committee shall meet to screen applications and determine the appropriate distribution of available Dorothy Bjork Disaster Assistance Funds. The proposed check distribution will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval of payment. This is likely to occur at the **April 16, 2011** Board meeting. Within five working days of Board approval, CSEA shall issue the disaster assistance checks.

- **Volunteer Resource Bank** - Established at the time of a declared disaster when it is determined volunteer assistance is needed. Special equipment, special skills, extra rooms for temporary housing or storage space, etc. may be needed to assist CSEA members affected by the fire. The coordinating Field Offices will contact the appropriate Chapter Presidents, Regional Representative, and/or Area Director if volunteer assistance is needed in your area.
- **Donations Needed** - If you are not affected by the fire, please consider making an individual and/or chapter-wide donation to the assistance fund. Since its founding in 1986, the Dorothy Bjork Assistance Fund has helped members recover from catastrophic events throughout the state – all from generous donations.

Checks should be made payable to the Dorothy Bjork Assistance Fund, and mailed to CSEA Headquarters at 2045 Lundy Ave, San Jose, CA 95131.

Additional forms, flyers, and information are available from the CSEA web site, under the School and Community tab - Assistance option or in the Forms section, or through the CSEA Field Offices:

Costa y Valles Field Office (800) 834-9959

North Bay Field Office (800) 464-7717

Rancho Cucamonga Field Office (800) 526-9297

Sacramento Field Office (800) 582-7314

Santa Fe Field Office (800) 988-6949

Fresno Field Office (800) 439-6626

Orange Field Office (800) 564-9979

River Delta Field Office (800)757-4229

San Diego Field Office (800) 675-9939

South Bay Field Office (800) 487-2440

Or CSEA Headquarters – Jody Bell @ 1-800-632-2128, ext. 1234 or jbelle@csea.com