



Mendocino County Advocacy & Collaboration Team

What We Know Now

3/24/20 Edition 1

[County of Mendocino Novel Coronavirus Information and Resources Webpage](#)

Financial Resources

3/24/20 Families First Coronavirus Response Act

This Act authorizes a variety of programs related to the coronavirus such as paid sick leave, expanded unemployment benefits, free virus testing, nutrition benefits and other programs. More information is detailed throughout this document. [H.R. 6201 summary](#)

3/24/20 Unemployment Insurance

The California Employment Development Department (EDD) issued a [press release](#) on March 20th with updates to their programs. Workers who are temporarily unemployed or have reduced hours due to COVID-19 can apply for unemployment. The 1-week unpaid waiting period has been waived. At this moment, most self-employed workers are not eligible for unemployment benefits, although they are encouraged to apply because they may have been misclassified or have past employment where they paid into the system. [EDD website](#)

3/24/20 CalWORKs and Cash Aid

Special financial assistance, called “diversion payments” may be available to some families through CalWORKs to address a specific crisis or item of need. Current CalWORKs recipients should contact their worker if they need additional support. New applicants can apply for CalWORKs by calling: Fort Bragg 1-877-327-1677 or Ukiah 1-877-327-1711

3/24/20 Paid Sick Leave

The Families First Act requires employers to provide two weeks of sick leave if the employee is unable to work because of COVID-19. The ACT also authorizes a tax credit equivalent to two weeks of sick leave for those that are self-employed.

3/24/20 Income Tax Statements

The deadline to file your 2019 income tax forms is now July 15, 2020.

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Food Resources

3/24/20 CalFresh

CalFresh provides nutrition assistance to low-income individuals and families. CalFresh recipients who have lost their income should report this to Social Services. They may be able to increase their benefits. Those that are not currently enrolled in CalFresh, but have lost income because of this pandemic, may be newly eligible for CalFresh. Applications can be completed online through [GetCalFresh.org](https://www.getcalfresh.org).

3/24/20 Pandemic EBT

EBT is the name for the Electronic Benefits Card already issued to CalFresh recipients. Pandemic EBT, as introduced in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201), will deliver nutrition assistance on an EBT card for families to purchase groceries. The family does not have to have been enrolled in or eligible for CalFresh (SNAP). Pandemic EBT benefits will be issued to families with school-age children who qualify for free or reduced price school meals. This program has not yet begun in California. [Pandemic EBT Fact Sheet](#)

3/24/20 Local Food Banks

The Food Banks and Food Pantries throughout Mendocino County remain open. Some have expanded their hours and services to meet the increased need. (We are working on a link to a current resource list of food banks.)

3/24/20 Community Meals

Many senior centers and community dining halls are continuing to provide free or low-cost meals. They are being packaged for pick-up and delivery. Stay tuned for additional information.

3/24/20 School Meals

Schools are continuing to provide breakfast and lunch to all children. Meals are packed for pick-up. Some school districts are delivering meals through their bus routes. Check your school district website for more information.

3/24/20 Grocery Store Delivery and Curbside Pickup

Many grocery stores are offering delivery and curbside pickup. Click here for a current list of local grocery stores offering such service. [3/23/20 List](#)

Health Insurance Resources

3/24/20 Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal provides full-scope health insurance to low-income Californians. Applications can be completed online at [CoveredCa.com](https://www.coveredca.com).

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3/24/20 Covered California

Covered California provides full-scope health insurance to Californians. The cost is a sliding scale based upon income. Covered California has just [announced](#) that they will extend their open enrollment period through the end of June! Applications can be completed online at CoveredCa.com

3/24/20 COVID-19 Testing

Legislation has been enacted to ensure that COVID-19 testing is available at no cost. If insured, there will be no co-pay or deductible for the test. If uninsured, the test will be covered by a government program.

Housing

3/24/20 CalWORKs Housing Programs

The CalWORKs program provides temporary and permanent housing assistance to families at risk of homelessness. Those impacted by COVID-19 may be eligible for additional [CalWORKs Homeless Assistance](#). For more information, call: Fort Bragg 1-877-327-1677 or Ukiah 1-877-327-1711

3/24/20 Special Housing Assistance to Families with Children

Limited funds are available to support low-income families at risk of eviction or in need of down-payment assistance. This program may also assist limited term motel/hotel vouchers. Email efas_outreach@mendocinocounty.org for more information.

3/24/20 Mortgage Relief

Homeowners who have lost income or their jobs because of the coronavirus outbreak may be eligible to have their mortgage payments reduced or suspended for up to 12 months. Homeowners should contact their mortgage lender to find out more.

Immigration

3/24/20 Public Charge

On March 13, USCIS announced that COVID-19 testing, prevention, or treatment would NOT be used against immigrants in a public charge test. [What Immigrant Communities Need to Know](#)

3/24/20 Access to Health Care for Immigrants

The National Immigration Law Center's [website](#) has updated information about access to care for immigrants.