

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**EDD awards \$800,000 grant to assist farmworkers impacted by recent disasters**

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) announced today it has awarded \$800,000 to La Cooperativa Campesina de California to provide outreach and reemployment services to farmworkers throughout the state impacted by the recent disasters and emergency incidents, including wildfires and power outages.

“This grant will enable staff to guide impacted farmworkers to essential services that will enable them to get back to work in locally in-demand industries,” said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning. “This funding is an important investment in these local communities that have seen their workforces affected by fires and other disasters.”

Due to the remote geographic nature of agricultural work, migrant and seasonal farmworkers often have difficulties connecting with available workforce development services. La Cooperativa, a non-profit organization that specializes in serving this group, will use the funds to bridge this divide and direct farmworkers to job and emergency assistance.

La Cooperativa is specifically targeting outreach to at least 5,000 farmworkers dislocated by the Kincade Fire in Sonoma County. The organization will then use the lessons learned from this effort to develop strategies to deliver relief to farmworkers from future large-scale disasters or emergencies in rural areas throughout the state.

La Cooperativa staff will travel throughout the affected locations to provide:

- Outreach to rural area migrant and seasonal farmworkers through radio, media, and publications, such as flyers, bulletins, etc.;
- Access to reemployment assistance for workers who lost their jobs due to the impact of disasters, emergencies, etc.
- Layoff prevention and business resource assessments for employers impacted by these events.

(more)

Affected farmworkers and their families will be referred to local agencies and La Cooperativa's statewide workforce partners for emergency support services such as gas vouchers, temporary housing, food vouchers, and medical/health assistance.

Funding for this grant was provided through the discretionary funds made available to Governor Gavin Newsom in accordance with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and administered by the EDD and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

For more information on La Cooperativa and its programs, contact Executive Director Marco Lizarraga at (916) 388-2220.

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