

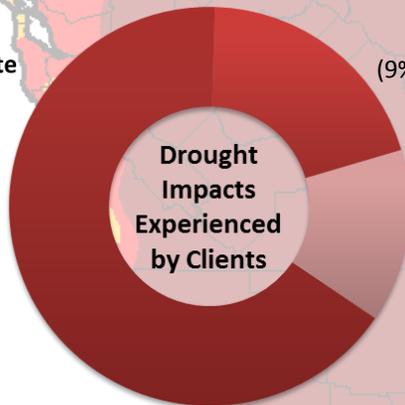
Drought Water Assistance Program Pilot Project

With extreme drought persisting throughout the state, the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) launched the **Drought Water Assistance Program (DWAP) Pilot Project** to assist drought impacted, low-income households with their residential water utility bill to prevent disruption in vital water services and to promote water conservation. The **\$600,000 program** under the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) in 2014 was directed to families in 10 counties currently experiencing some of the worst drought impacts.

Qualifying counties were chosen based on the following characteristics:

- An unemployment rate higher than the 2013 statewide average
- A higher share of agricultural workers than the state as a whole
- Designated with “exceptional” drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor Classification System

Water Rate Increase
66%



Job Loss
20%
(9% agricultural)

Other
14%

• FACTS •

\$60,000

Award amount to CSBG agencies located in select drought-impacted counties

2,793

Households that received services

100%

Percentage of incomes served that were at or below the federal poverty level

\$183

Average water utility bill assistance payment

CSBG agencies in **Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus and Tulare** were awarded \$60,000 to provide residential water financial assistance benefits to low-income households impacted by the drought. Clients also received education on water conservation.

These CSBG agencies partnered with local water providers to enhance the effectiveness of outreach and to coordinate payment of a client’s water utility bills. Eligible households were asked to self-certify that they were impacted by the drought.



California Department of Community Services & Development

Serving Low-Income Families Through Community Partners

CSD partners with a network of private, non-profit and local, government community-based organizations dedicated to helping low-income families and individuals achieve and maintain self-sufficiency, manage their home energy needs and reside in housing free from the dangers of lead hazards.