



## **News from the Emergency Management Committee Chair (9/10/21)**

### **California Incident Summary**

[CAL FIRE](#) has an incidents page on their website that provides interactive maps, with up-to-date information regarding various disasters happening throughout the state. To view their incidents page, [please follow this link](#).

### **Cal OES Posts Resources for Californians Impacted by 2021 Wildfires**

[The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services \(Cal OES\)](#) has put together various resources for wildfire survivors on their website.

To view the different types of resources, [follow this link](#).

### **Responders are Gaining on the Caldor Fire, But Now They've Got New Blazes to Battle**

[NPR reports](#) as California battles wildfires throughout the state, a new crop of suspicious fires that erupted over Labor Day weekend added to an already busy wildfire season.

Officials warned residents in Sonoma County to remain vigilant after more than a dozen fires erupted late Monday. Over the weekend, at least three other fires started.

In Amador County, near where the long-burning Caldor Fire is, the [Lawrence Fire](#), that started Sunday, engulfed 46 acres by Monday, the [California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, reported](#). Roads were briefly closed, and fire officials carried out some evacuations before the blaze was nearly 90% contained by 6:30 p.m. local time Monday.

Farther north, [the Bridge Fire](#) was reported Sunday afternoon. By the next day, the fire had burned more than 400 acres but was 15% contained, allowing evacuation orders and warnings to be lifted. Officials kept the Auburn State Recreation Area closed, however.

In San Diego County, [the Aruba Fire](#) also started Sunday afternoon. Firefighters made quick work of it, however, and by Monday, it was 60% contained.

On Monday, officials announced significant progress in battling the Caldor Fire. Some evacuation warnings were lifted around Lake Tahoe as it reached 44% containment. Evacuation orders for South Lake Tahoe were downgraded to evacuation warnings, allowing some residents to return home after a week away.

To read more updates on the Caldor Fire and details of the new blazes, [visit NPR's full article](#).

## **California Secures Emergency Declaration for Caldor Fire**

[The Oakdale Leader reports](#) Governor Gavin Newsom announced that, within hours of California's request, the White House approved a Presidential Emergency Declaration for Direct Federal Assistance to bolster the response to the Caldor Fire in El Dorado, Amador, Alpine and Placer counties.

“We thank President Biden and Vice President Harris for their steadfast support to California as we battle these challenging fires,” said Governor Newsom. “Our continued partnership with the federal government is critical to protecting communities and ensuring impacted Californians have the support they need to get back on their feet.”

The Presidential Emergency Declaration for the Caldor Fire will supplement state, local and tribal government emergency services for the protection of lives, property, public health and safety.

Even as the Caldor Fire burns, Newsom has directed state agencies to rapidly and thoroughly document the extent of the damage to ensure the state is able to pursue further federal support for individuals and communities impacted by the fire.

On Aug. 30, the governor proclaimed a state of emergency in Alpine, Amador and Placer counties due to the Caldor Fire, following the emergency proclamation issued for El Dorado County previously. The state has secured a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) from FEMA to help ensure the availability of vital resources to suppress this rapidly spreading fire.

The White House last week approved California's request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, including supports available to wildfire-impacted residents and assistance for state, tribal and local governments with ongoing emergency response and recovery costs. California recently secured FMAGs to support the state's response to the Dixie Fire in Lassen, Butte and Plumas counties and the response to the French Fire, Caldor Fire, Monument Fire, River Fire and Lava Fire.

Governor Newsom has activated the State Operations Center to its highest level and has also signed executive orders to support impacted communities and bolster wildfire response and recovery efforts. CAL FIRE and Cal OES personnel are responding in concert with other federal, state and local agencies to address emergency management and mutual aid needs for the fires.

## **Mississippi National Guard Helps Battle California Wildfires**

[WXXV 25 reports](#) on Tuesday, a team of Mississippi Army National Guard Aviators are deploying to California to assist local agencies with fighting the massive wildfires across the state.

The CH-47 Chinook heavy-lift helicopter crew of approximately ten Soldiers will work alongside the California National Guard and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) by providing aerial water bucket operations and aviation maintenance support where needed.

After a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration was placed on California, the state requested MSNG personnel and equipment through an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

Inter-agency coordination between the California Office of Emergency Services, the California National Guard, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the supporting Mississippi National Guard forces, played a vital role leading up to the deployment.

“These Chinook flight crew members and maintainers are among the best and most versatile of Army Aviation,” said Capt. Lewis Howard, B Co. commander. “They have trained in many different Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) scenarios to include hurricane response, search and rescue and local law enforcement aid. We include water bucket and fire response training in our annual training plans so CALFIRE assistance is something every crew member is adequately prepared to conduct,” said Howard.

Soldiers serving in support of the MSNG CALFIRE team represent the 185<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade headquartered in Jackson; 1-185th Aviation Regiment, Jackson; Army Aviation Support Facility #3, Meridian; Bravo Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment in Meridian, and A Company 1108th Theater Aviation Support Maintenance Group, Gulfport. The month-long mission is expected to continue through mid-October.

“The aircrew we are providing to fight wildfires in California is very experienced and extraordinarily qualified to perform this mission,” said the Mississippi National Guard State Aviation Officer, Col. Bradley Howe. “I know that they will provide outstanding support to help the people of California just as they always do here in Mississippi.”

### **Biden Mandates Vaccines for Workers, Saying, ‘Our Patience is Wearing Thin’**

[\*The New York Times\* reports](#) President Biden on Thursday used the full force of his presidency to push two-thirds of American workers to be vaccinated against the coronavirus, reaching into the private sector to mandate that all companies with more than 100 workers require vaccination or weekly testing.

Mr. Biden also moved to mandate shots for health care workers, federal contractors and the vast majority of federal workers, who could face disciplinary measures if they refuse.

The sweeping actions, which the president announced in a White House speech, are the most expansive he has taken to control the pandemic and will affect almost every aspect of society. They also reflect Mr. Biden’s deep frustration with the roughly 80 million Americans who are eligible for shots but have not gotten them.

“We’ve been patient,” Mr. Biden said in a sharp message to those who refuse to be vaccinated. “But our patience is wearing thin. And your refusal has cost all of us.”

Initially reluctant to enact mandates, Mr. Biden is now moving more aggressively than any other president in modern history to require vaccination, experts say. In his remarks, he promised to “protect vaccinated workers from the unvaccinated.”

“We can and we will turn the tide on Covid-19,” he said.

Even so, Mr. Biden conceded that the mandates would take time to “have full impact.” They are also all but certain to be the subject of legal challenges; already, the largest union representing federal workers has raised questions. It is also unclear how many workers subject to the new mandates have already been vaccinated.

Mr. Biden is acting through a combination of executive orders and new federal rules. Under his plan, private-sector businesses that have 100 or more employees will have to require vaccination, or mandatory weekly testing, after the Occupational Safety and Health Administration drafts a rule. Roughly 17 million health care workers employed by hospitals and other institutions that accept Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement will also face strict new vaccination requirements, as will federal contractors and most federal workers.

Experts say Mr. Biden has the legal authority to impose vaccine requirements on the private sector, through laws that require businesses to comply with evidence-based federal health safety standards. OSHA, which enforces workplace safety, has already imposed other pandemic precautions, such as a rule in June requiring health care employers to provide protective equipment and adequate ventilation and ensure social distancing, among other measures. Robert I. Field, a law professor at Drexel University, said that OSHA had the authority to protect workers' safety, keeping them from being exposed to a potentially deadly virus, by requiring vaccinations.

To read more on this new nationwide mandate, [view the \*Time's\* full article.](#)

### **Critically Low ICU Capacity Across Swath of California Triggers State's Emergency Surge Protocols**

[Deadline reports](#) in mid-August California's Health Officer, Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, issued a new order meant to ensure rapidly-filling hospitals and ICUs had the support and flexibility they needed.

At the time, Aragón announced: "California is currently experiencing the fastest increase in Covid-19 cases during the entire pandemic with 23.8 new cases per 100,000 people per day, with case rates increasing eleven-fold within two months...Hospitalizations have increased over 700% in the past two months and are projected to continue to increase." That they have.

Since mid-August, cases have plateaued but the 7-day average of new cases of per 100,000 has grown then dropped a bit 27.9 per 100,000 today. Hospitalizations and ICU demands — which are lagging indicators generally rising weeks after spikes in cases — have continued to increase.

In mid-August, there were 7,166 people with Covid-19 hospitalized in the state. Today, there are 8,630 such patients, with the number of available staffed ICU beds statewide down from 1,861 then to 1,533 today. Those changes are more acute in some areas than others.

In the San Joaquin Valley, the number of available staffed ICU beds dropped to just 8.6%. The drop below 10% triggered Aragón's health officer order. That makes the San Joaquin Valley the first region in the state to implement the provisions the new Public Health Order and the first time since the winter surge that such provisions taken effect.

Intended to ensure ICU capacity remains available, the health officer surge protocols help shift capacity throughout the region and the state.

According to [the order](#), for at least the next seven days, San Joaquin Valley Region hospitals must adhere to specific protocols. To view the list of protocols and other statistics, [visit \*Deadline's\* full article.](#)

## **L.A. School Officials Order Sweeping Student Vaccine Mandate, A First by A Major District**

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) all children 12 and older in Los Angeles public schools must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by January to enter campus under an order approved Thursday by the Board of Education, the first such mandate among the nation's largest school systems and a decision that triggered immediate pushback.

The requirement cements the standing of the L.A. Unified School District as an early adopter of COVID-19 school safety measures that are wide-reaching and aggressive. The nation's second-largest school system has moved faster and more comprehensively than most others in testing all students and employees for coronavirus infection every week, requiring masks indoors and outdoors and ordering employees to get vaccinated.

L.A. schools Interim Supt. Megan K. Reilly said the student mandate was the next logical step to keep children, staff and community members safer from a COVID-19 pandemic that still poses significant risks.

New York City's school system, the largest in the nation, so far has ordered athletes in high-contact sports to begin the vaccination process before competition starts. New York City and Chicago, the nation's third-largest district, are among a growing number of school systems that have enacted mandates for employees.

The L.A. district action "could provide the model for a comprehensive school response to COVID mitigation, so that schools can move on to student academic and mental health recovery plans," said Odis Johnson Jr., executive director of the Center for Safe and Healthy Schools at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education. "Mandatory vaccination mandates move us forward toward finally addressing students' developmental, social and academic well-being."

One vaccine, made by Pfizer, has received full approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for people 16 and older. Those who are 12 to 15 can be inoculated under a federal emergency use authorization. L.A. Unified is not waiting for full vaccine approval for those 12 to 15 — although that approval by the FDA is widely expected in the coming weeks. And President Biden on Thursday pledged to expedite approval of the vaccine for younger children.

Reilly estimated that about 225,000 students in grades six through 12 would fall under the policy. District officials estimate that roughly 80,000 students are not yet vaccinated. Also affected would be about 17,000 students in independent charter schools that use L.A. Unified campuses.

Students who are not vaccinated by the deadline will not be allowed on campus, she said. The alternative for them would be to enter remote learning through independent study, a program that was overwhelmed at the start of the school year when more than 10,000 students signed up.

Under the district's mandate, the first students affected would be those involved in any school-sponsored extracurricular activity, including sports, drama, chorus and band. Those students who are 12 or older must receive a first vaccine dose no later than Oct. 3 and a second dose no later than Oct. 31.

To read more on what happens next for those affected by this policy, [view the Time's full article.](#)

## California's 'Strike Team' Deployed to Porterville Hospital After Emergency Room Overflows

[Visalia Times Delta reports](#) Sierra View Medical Center received state assistance after seeing a surge of COVID-19 patients over the Labor Day weekend.

The Porterville hospital announced that its emergency department was full late Saturday. The hospital enlisted local ambulance workers and medics to help staff the ED and COVID unit.

The hospital's emergency rooms were so overloaded that Sierra View stopped accepting most ambulances during that time. People requiring emergency care were sent to other hospitals, as the medical center was put on diversion.

In northern Tulare County, Dinuba Fire Chief Jordan Webster announced that unless you are experiencing a life-threatening medical emergency, EMS crews will not be able to transport the city's residents to a hospital.

"The EMS system is struggling at times to provide ambulance services to Dinuba and surrounding communities," the chief said. "Hospitals are operating at disaster levels and there is limited patient bed capacity available. Most of our hospital emergency departments are holding ICU patients, which requires significant emergency department space and resources that are no longer available to the emergency department."

The state of California sent a "strike team" of five paramedics and six emergency medical technicians to help staff Sierra View during the surge that was "the biggest we have seen during this pandemic."

"As we continue to navigate the realities of this surge and the stress it continues to cause, our healthcare teams continue to provide our patients with the care they need," Sierra View said in a statement. "We appreciate your patience and thank you for your support during these unimaginable times."

An additional team of six registered nurses and a certified nursing assistant was deployed to the eastern Tulare County hospital this week. The temporary additional staffing allowed the hospital to begin accepting emergency patients.

Overnight Saturday, the hospital's 18-bed emergency department went from treating 25 patients to 13 patients. As of Tuesday, the hospital was treating 32 confirmed COVID-19 patients. Its 10-bed ICU had admitted nine patients, six of whom were COVID-19 positive.

The medical center addressed false rumors that the diversion policy resulted from a staff walkout, saying instead that the hospital is experiencing the same nursing shortages as those across the state and nation.

"There has NOT been a staff walkout at Sierra View Medical Center, despite widespread disinformation circulating in the community," Sierra View said on social media. "While we do have a shortage of health care workers to accommodate the increased patient care demand, so do all hospitals in the area and many throughout the nation."

Hospital leaders encouraged community members to email [marketing@sierra-view.com](mailto:marketing@sierra-view.com) with concerns and questions to receive a direct response. Nurses and healthcare professionals "ready

to help on the frontlines in Porterville" are also encouraged to contact the hospital for employment opportunities.

Kaweah Health in Visalia has not had to resort to a diversion policy despite its emergency department and ICU remaining "incredibly busy," hospital officials said.

On Tuesday, Kaweah Health was treating 114 Covid patients, 16 of whom were in the ICU. Over the past 14 days, the hospital has processed 9,161 tests with 1,175, or 12.8%, returning a positive Covid diagnosis.

In mid-August, the hospital activated a COVID-19 triage to initiate an emergency response due to a lack of beds. Kaweah Health called off the internal emergency days later as it announced California regulators had approved the expansion of its emergency department.

Nearly 90% of COVID-19 patients in Tulare County hospitals are unvaccinated, county health officials said.

"It is imperative for everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible to decrease the spread of this highly infectious Delta variant and stall any potential for other COVID-19 variants to mutate and develop in our community," Tulare County Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Haught said in a statement. "COVID-19 hospitalizations have drastically increased, our local hospitals are at full capacity, health care workers are significantly strained, and medical resources are limited. We all must do our part to decrease the spread of COVID-19 by getting vaccinated and following public health guidelines."

Since the pandemic started in March 2020, 55,290 Tulare County residents have been infected with COVID-19, and 869 have died from complications of the virus. The virus has killed 632,000 Americans.

### **California Faces Short-Term Nursing Shortage from COVID-19 Retirements**

[Lake County News reports](#) California will face a significant shortfall of registered nurses over the next five years due to long-term trends that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new report by the UCSF Health Workforce Research Center on Long-Term Care.

The authors estimate a current shortage of 40,567 full-time equivalent RNs, a 13.6 percent gap, that is projected to persist until 2026, according to an analysis of preliminary data from the 2020 Survey of California Registered Nurses and final data from the 2019-20 Annual RN Schools Survey.

At a time when hospitals nationwide are facing challenges in filling nursing positions, the study found that many older registered nurses in California have left the field and a large number plan on retiring or quitting within the next two years. Meanwhile unemployment among younger RNs in California has increased.

"The pandemic is accelerating a broad trend that has been building for some time," said Joanne Spetz, PhD, co-author of the report and director of the UCSF Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies (PRL-IHPS). "To address this, employers need to retain older RNs, while developing career paths for new graduates. They also need to rapidly develop and implement strategies to mitigate the potential harm of nurse shortages over the next five years."

California currently has more than 350,000 registered nurses employed in its hospitals, clinics and other facilities, as well as more than 450,000 licensed nurses.

California nurses make up nearly 12% of all nurses employed nationwide. Among employed RNs in California, an estimated 30% are over age 55.

In 2020, 26% of registered nurses between the ages of 55 and 64 said they plan to leave the field in the next two years, up from 12% in 2018. The authors said this was most likely from burnout and the need to reduce COVID-19 exposure to at-risk family members.

At the same time, employers have been reluctant to hire less experienced RNs, possibly because of the difficulty in onboarding them during the pandemic. Demand for nurses was also reduced in some regions because of limits on elective surgeries and in-person ambulatory care.

The report, released on Sept. 6, 2021, estimates that 8,500 California RNs were seeking employment in late 2020, which would fill about 20% of the current shortfall.

California is also producing fewer nurses. Public registered nursing education programs, including city colleges and the California state system, had to decrease enrollments, skip cohorts and reduce class sizes during the pandemic, in part because of their inability to place students in clinical environments.

“These programs didn’t have the resources to pivot online or to distance within classrooms as a private school can,” Spetz said. “Policymakers need to support public nursing education programs to ensure an ongoing pipeline of nurses into the health care system.”

Fortunately, there is a record-breaking interest in the nursing profession, Spetz said. RN education enrollments are projected to surpass pre-pandemic levels during the 2022-23 academic year.

Spetz said much can also be done to retain older nurses, for example by offering them alternative roles as mentors.

“Employers need to be really thoughtful about long-term workforce development,” Spetz said. As nurses exit the workforce at a more rapid rate, employers will need to onboard new RNs. “Can you address older RNs’ burnout and keep them in the workplace part-time to help onboard the new grads?”

### **‘It’s Scary’: National Vet Shortage Impacting Bay Area Animal Hospitals**

[California News Times reports](#) in the Bay Area, there is a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and nurses, and so hospitals need to reduce emergency services.

When Jack Jack’s mom traveled all over the country, so did he. “I started looking for a vet in my neighborhood about two months ago, but I couldn’t find a vet in the city that has new animals, especially animals the size of my dog,” he says. Lauren Avenius, who lives, said. San Francisco.

Avenius is directly experiencing the effects of a national veterinary shortage.

Dr. Jennifer Scarlet is the president of the San Francisco SPCA. “I’m really worried,” said Dr. Scarlet.

She states that the shortage of veterinarians and veterinary nurses is not unique to SFSPCA or even the Bay Area. “This isn’t just us,” she continued.

She believes that the shortage of veterinarians is due to the number of enrollments and permanent retirements each year, and that turnover is also one of the main causes of the shortage of nurses. “The average career life of a veterinary nurse is only five years,” said Dr. Scarlet.

Adding COVID to the mix will prevent the employees currently working from working at full capacity. “Trying to solve it in the next few years is a big problem for us,” said Dr. Scarlet.

Outside the SFSPCA Fillmore Street location, the 24-hour emergency sign is now out of date.

Dr. Scarlett states that the location will suspend nighttime emergency care after 8 pm on weekdays and suspend emergency care on weekends.

The mission campus continues to be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

“We need to scale down to what our staff can actually handle,” Dr. Scarlett said. She believes telemedicine for veterinarians can make a difference.

“Approximately 80% of the emergencies we see are not true emergencies,” said Dr. Scarlet.

Pet owners are struggling while frontline workers are trying to come up with solutions. “They are our fur babies, so I’m scared because I don’t know what to do in the event of an emergency,” Avenius said.

## **Unemployment Benefits End for Millions – California Leaders Say State Can’t Extend Them**

[The Sacramento Bee reports](#) the unemployment benefits that ended Saturday won’t be revived anytime soon in California.

In Sacramento, as in Washington, the message is the same: The economy is recovering, jobs are plentiful and lots of other help is available if needed.

“What we’ve seen is there just has been no conversation or political will to extend these benefits,” said Jenna Gerry, senior staff attorney at the National Employment Law Center, which follows unemployment issues.

Maintaining the benefits, which served an estimated 2.2 million people in California, would be okay with the Biden administration.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Labor Secretary Marty Walsh [wrote a letter](#) to key congressional leaders August 19 saying states could use some money from the federal pandemic relief to continue the benefits.

## **Former State Employee with Record of Fraud to Plead Guilty to EDD Scam**

[The Los Angeles Times reports](#) a former California government employee who once served time in prison for stealing state benefits meant for disabled people has agreed to plead guilty to federal fraud charges for another scam in which she siphoned more than \$1.5 million in COVID relief payments.

In a plea agreement filed in U.S. District Court on Wednesday, Gabriela Llerenas, 49, of Perris, admitted to filing bogus jobless claims for pandemic-related benefits with the Employment Development Department, the state agency where she once worked. She now faces up to 20 years in federal prison and has agreed to forfeit \$621,000 that she obtained through the scheme, according to the plea agreement.

The guilty plea delivers a significant victory to prosecutors who have been trying to address the widespread fraud that played out as states rushed to disperse billions in COVID relief funds. But with more than [\\$11 billion](#) believed to have been lost to fraudulent claims just in California, the case hardly moves the needle.

The latest scheme follows an earlier one Llerenas ran when she worked at the EDD handling disability insurance claims. She resigned in March 2002 after admitting that she authorized and pocketed fake disability benefits. She was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison, according to court records.

In the current scheme, Llerenas, who also worked as a tax preparer, used the names and social security numbers of former tax clients to apply for emergency unemployment benefits that were part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that President Biden signed into law in March 2020, according to the plea agreement.

Under the law, business owners, self-employed workers, independent contractors, and others who may not have previously qualified for benefits were eligible to receive payments if the pandemic had impacted their ability to work.

Llerenas admitted that between April and October last year she received payments while posing as out of work cake decorators, waiters, and others. In some cases, she filed the claims without the people knowing and in others she worked in cahoots with the people, the plea agreement said.

When a person was in on the scam with her, Llerenas admitted to charging the person a fee for filing the application. In at least one case, she told the claimant that she was still employed at EDD and demanded an additional payment for “releasing” the money to the person, the plea agreement shows.

She also acknowledged that she sometimes inflated the amount of income a person had allegedly lost in order to maximize the payouts from the state.

In an attempt to avoid detection, Llerenas said in the plea agreement that she had payments sent to several addresses including her residence, her husband’s business, her mother’s apartment and friends’ homes.

In total, she was found to have received 197 of the debit cards EDD uses to issue benefits with at least \$1,633,487 loaded on them, according to court filings.

An attorney for Llerenas could not be reached for comment.

### **ICYMI: Funding Opportunities Ending Soon**

- [Forest Conservation Program 2021 Proposal Solicitation Notice](#); *environment & water*

- Funded by: Wildlife Conservation Board
- Deadline: **Friday, September 10, 2021**
- Total estimated funding: \$18 million
- **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
  - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **California State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP);** *health & human services*
  - Funded by: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
  - Deadline: **Wednesday, September 15, 2021**
  - Total estimated funding: \$3.369 million
  - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
    - **Online application:** [linked here](#)
- **VICTIM IMPACT GRANT;** *uncategorized*
  - Funded by: CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
  - Deadline: **Monday, September 20, 2021**
  - Total estimated funding: \$2 million
  - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)
- **OTS Mini-Grant;** *uncategorized*
  - Funded by: Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
  - Deadline: **Monday, September 20, 2021**
  - Total estimated funding: \$320k
  - **Full grant guidelines:** [linked here](#)

## Funding Opportunities

### Traumatic Brain Injury Program

[The Department of Rehabilitation \(DOR\)](#) is working to expand current TBI resources to establish a statewide network of services and supports that will improve the quality of life for persons with TBI, their families, and caregivers.

The DOR is working to expand current TBI resources to establish a statewide network of services and supports that will improve the quality of life for persons with TBI, their families, and caregivers. The DOR, through its Independent Living and Assistive Technology Section (ILATS), announces the availability of state grant funds as authorized under WIC sections 4353-4358.5. This RFA is made available to qualified service providers for the purpose of carrying out the programs and services needed to support individuals with TBI and their families. The term of this grant will be January 1, 2022 or upon approval whichever is later, through June 30, 2024. At the DOR's option, one or more grants may be extended for an additional one (1) year under the same terms and conditions, not to exceed two (2) extensions or four and a half (4.5) years total. The determination to extend a grant will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This program is funded through an annual General Fund appropriation of \$1,050,000.00 to be divided equally across up to six grants. In the event that fewer than six grants are awarded, funding will be equally distributed across all awarded grants.

Eligible applicants include businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies.

Per WIC sections 4353-4358.5, this RFA is made available to qualified service providers for the purpose of carrying out the programs and services needed to support individuals with TBI and their families.

Service providers must match not less than 20 percent of the amount granted, except for funds used for mentoring. The required match may be cash or in-kind contributions, or a combination of both, from the awardee or any cooperating agency. In-kind contributions may include, but shall not be limited to, staff and volunteer services.

The deadline to apply is **Thursday, September 30, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$1.05 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

## **2021 CalAgPlate Grant Program**

[The California Department of Food and Agriculture](#) has created the CalAgPlate program to fund projects that support agricultural education, agricultural career awareness and development, agriculture career training, and agriculture leadership development to assist students at the kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12), post-secondary, and adult education levels. Supporting these educational and training areas will provide participants further agricultural opportunities.

The CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture anticipates that up to \$225,000 will be awarded to projects to support agricultural education and training. Grant amounts range from \$2,500-190,000. The maximum grant duration is one (1) year, six (6) months and grant funds cannot be expended before January 1, 2022 or after June 30, 2023. CDFA reserves the right to offer an award amount less than the amount requested.

\* NOTE: Non-profit programs administered or managed by a university, such as the 4-H Youth Development Program are exempt from this limitation.

Two funding opportunities available: Tier 1 – California Adopted Agricultural Education Programs Up to 85 percent (\$190,000) of total available grant award funding is reserved for the California FFA Association; the non-profit organization that represents state adopted Agricultural Education Programs (Education Code Sections 52450-52454). These programs have proven to be effective on a statewide basis in meeting the priorities and intent of the CalAgPlate program.

Tier 1 grant awards range from \$10,000 to \$190,000 per project.

Tier 2 – Local/Community/State Agricultural Education Programs Up to 15 percent (\$33,500) of available funding will be awarded to eligible Local/Community/State Agricultural Education Programs. This Tier is open to non-profit organizations, as well as state, local and Indian tribal government agencies within California which promote and administer agricultural education and leadership programs targeting K-12, post-secondary, and adult education. Individual schools and school districts are encouraged to partner with eligible non-profit organizations. Institutes of higher learning are ineligible to directly apply\*, however, they can partner with eligible organizations on a proposed CalAgPlate project.

Tier 2 grant awards range from \$2,500 to \$10,000 per project.

Funding Category I: Agricultural Education In this funding category, CDFA will consider projects that enhance and benefit agricultural education opportunities for students and educators. Examples:

- Agricultural curriculum development and implementation

- School/community garden enrichment programs
- Interactive agriculture learning experiences, outdoor agricultural education programs (e.g., farms/ranches)
- Agriculture demonstrations/activities (e.g., exhibits).

Funding Category II: Agricultural Career Awareness, Development and Training In this funding category, CDFA will consider projects that advance, promote and support agricultural career development and training for high school and college students. Examples:

- Interactive training experiences and mentorship programs
- Practical career preparation and career advancement opportunities
- Outreach programs and career expos
- Informational workshops for next-generation/beginning farmers.

Funding Category III: Agricultural Leadership Development In this funding category, CDFA will consider projects that provide leadership experiences and skills for participants that encourage agricultural leadership development. Examples:

- Agricultural leadership conferences
- Agricultural leadership training programs
- Education tours focusing on agricultural policy issues/areas.

Non-profit organizations, as well as state, local and tribal government agencies within California which promote and administer agricultural education and leadership programs targeting K-12, post-secondary, and adult education. Individuals are not eligible to apply. There is no limit on the number of grant proposals applicants may submit; however, each grant proposal must be for a wholly unique project.

The deadline to apply is **Thursday, September 30, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$225k. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#).

### **Registered Nurse Education Programs Capitation Application**

[The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development](#) has created the Song-Brown program aiming to increase the number of students and residents receiving quality primary care education and training in areas of unmet need throughout California.

Attracting and admitting underrepresented minorities and those from underserved communities, training students in underserved areas, and placing graduates in underserved areas.

Each Registered Nurse Education Program approved for funding under the Song-Brown Health Care Workforce Training Act shall be operated by an accredited California school or program of Nursing or shall be approved by the Regents of the University of California or by the Trustees of the California State University and Colleges, or the Board of Governors of the CA Community Colleges and shall be approved by the Board of Registered Nursing.

Registered nursing programs must be located in California.

The deadline to apply is **Friday, October 1, 2021**. Total estimated funding available is \$12.725 million. To view the full grant guidelines, [click here](#). To view the online application, [click here](#).