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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\$10 Million Grant Program Helping Thousands of Agricultural Workers
with Rent Assistance**

Department of Housing and Community Development ensuring funds are flowing quickly to families negatively impacted by the drought

Sacramento – A rental assistance program, designed to help California families who are severely impacted by the drought, is now distributing more than \$500,000 each week to low-income families who have found themselves working less or unemployed and struggling to pay their rent due to the drought. California's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is funding the \$10 million grant program with La Cooperativa, a nonprofit association, administering the funds to families.

The Drought Housing Rental Subsidies program is being offered to eligible individuals and families in the 24 counties of Amador, Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, San Benito, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo and Yuba. These counties are experiencing a significant community impact as a result of the drought.

"The grant funds are flowing quickly and effectively to low-income families throughout California," said Secretary Anna Caballero of Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. "Our goal was to distribute the funds in the heat of the drought while workers, especially those in the agricultural industry, are so severely impacted."

To date, a total of almost \$2.3 million has been approved to be paid, and about 4,500 individuals, primarily farmworkers, have received help with their rent and/or utility payments.

"The severe drought this summer is having a heavy impact on all Californians, but especially on the workers and growers who depend on rain and a healthy crop for their income," said Randall Deems, Chief Deputy Director for HCD. "This short-term disaster assistance will provide some stability to families and communities that are especially vulnerable this year."

La Cooperativa, an association of nonprofit farmworker agencies, is administering the Drought Housing Rental Subsidies program on behalf of HCD. La Cooperativa has a strong history of providing services for disaster relief and rental assistance to Californians.

Individuals and families interested in applying for the Drought Housing Rental Subsidies program have multiple access points. La Cooperativa has more than 50 offices in the 24

county area, plus four mobile units that serve smaller agricultural communities. A short application will need to be completed and if an applicant is deemed eligible, rental payments will be made directly to the landlord and/or utility company.

More information on the Drought Housing Rental Subsidies program is available by calling La Cooperativa at 916.388.2228.

[Governor Brown has called on all Californians](#) to reduce their water use by 20 percent and prevent water waste – visit [SaveOurWater.com](#) to find out how everyone can do their part, and visit [drought.ca.gov](#) to learn more about how California is dealing with the effects of the drought.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development is dedicated to the preservation and expansion of safe and affordable housing so more Californians have a place to call home. Our team works to ensure an adequate supply of housing for Californians and promotes the growth of strong communities through its leadership, policy and program development. For more information, please visit [www.hcd.ca.gov](#).

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