

California Department of Aging

Brown Bag Program Narrative

Older Californians Act Community-Based Services Program

Program / Element / Component -- 40.90.30

Description

The Brown Bag Program provides surplus and donated edible fruits, vegetables, and other food products to low-income individuals 60 years of age and older. Food products are distributed at various locations throughout the State. The types of food distributed vary depending on the season, weather, and other factors that impact availability. Volunteers, the majority of whom are older individuals, help provide the time and energy needed to clean, sort, and distribute these food items. There is no fee charged to participants, although voluntary contributions can be made.

The amended State Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 eliminated the equivalent of nine months of Older Californians Act (OCA) State General Fund (GF) for the Brown Bag Program in FY 2009-10 and all future GF. However, the statutory authority for the Program continues under the OCA.

Benefits

The Brown Bag Program provides surplus and donated food products to supplement the nutritional resources of low-income older individuals. Food distributed by the Brown Bag Program frees the resources seniors otherwise would spend on food, allowing seniors to purchase other necessities such as medication and utilities. Volunteers donate their time to the Program, providing them with the sense of purpose and satisfaction derived from helping others.

Eligibility

<i>Income</i>	Must not exceed 100 percent of the California State Supplementary Income/State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) rate for a blind applicant. Local Brown Bag programs have the option to serve those with an income up to 125 percent of the SSI/SSP rate for the blind, contingent upon the availability of surplus food and within the limits of available funds.
<i>Age</i>	60 and older
<i>Other</i>	N/A

Access

Information on the Brown Bag Program and how to receive services is available through the statewide toll-free Senior Information Line at **1-800-510-2020** and the California Department of Aging (CDA) website at www.aging.ca.gov.

Current Year Funding

<i>Source</i>	State GF, local funds, in-kind contributions The amended State Budget for FY 2009-10 eliminated the equivalent of nine months of OCA GF for the Brown Bag Program in FY 2009-10 and all future GF.
<i>Allocation Formula</i>	CDA distributes OCA Community-Based Services Program (CBSP) allocations uniformly to the AAAs, except when a specific allocation has been established through the legislative process.
<i>Match Requirements</i>	25 percent cash match and 25 percent in-kind match
<i>Other Funding Information</i>	Allocated Brown Bag Program funds can be transferred to other CBSPs. AAAs can choose not to fund/administer the Brown Bag Program.
<i>Funding Cycle</i>	July 1 – June 30