



Media Advisory

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SLUMPING ECONOMY GOT YOU IN A CORNER? DIAL 2-1-1 FOR HELP

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 14, 2008 – Bay Area residents facing financial hardships during these tough economic times are encouraged to call to 2-1-1 to find community resources that can help.

2-1-1 is the free, confidential community information hotline, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in more than 150 languages. Trained, caring 2-1-1 staff can answer questions about:

- Food, shelter and clothing
- Utility and rent assistance
- Employment services
- Health care
- Legal aid
- Coping with stress, counseling
- Foreclosure and mortgage mediation
- Referrals to government and nonprofit assistance

Residents who cannot dial 2-1-1 should call 800-273-6222 to reach United Way's 2-1-1 call center. For the hearing impaired, dial 415-808-4440 (TTY) or 7-1-1.

NOTE: B-roll video footage of the 2-1-1 call center is available upon request.

About 2-1-1

Launched throughout the Bay Area in February 2008, 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember, toll-free phone number that connects callers with local community services, such as food, shelter, counseling, employment assistance, quality child care and more. During a disaster, 2-1-1 provides critical information about evacuation routes, food and shelter, as well as support with finding new jobs and permanent housing during long-term recovery. 2-1-1 is confidential and available 24 hours a day in more than 150 languages. 2-1-1 Bay Area is operated by United Way, Eden I&R, and Contra Costa Crisis Center. For more information, visit www.211BayArea.org.

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