



# MARIA'S 10 TIPS FOR FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

"Times may be uncertain, but  
WE will always be here to help.  
WE believe in you."

*Maria Shriver, First Lady of California*



## FOOD ON YOUR TABLE



**Golden State Advantage Cards** help you to buy food for your family. The average amount of benefits received per household is about \$200 per month.

Get Connected: [www.dss.cahwnet.gov/foodstamps](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/foodstamps)



**The California Association of Food Banks** unifies over 40 food banks statewide that provide food for those who need it.

Get Connected: [www.cafoodbanks.org/find.htm](http://www.cafoodbanks.org/find.htm)

## HOUSING ADVICE



**Homeowner's HOPE™** provides counseling services, education and support to help you avoid foreclosure and overcome financial issues at no cost to you.


Get Connected: [www.yourhome.ca.gov](http://www.yourhome.ca.gov)

## JOB RESOURCES



**The Employment Development Department** is your direct link to job placement and referrals, unemployment insurance, disability insurance, employment and training, labor market information, payroll taxes and more! Get Connected: [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov)

## MONEY TIPS

 **The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is the nation's largest resource for working families. If you are eligible to claim it, it can mean a return of up to \$4,700. With the **Child Tax Credit** you may be able to regain up to \$1,000 per qualifying child.  
Get Connected: 800.829.1040

 **Open Up A Bank Account.** Remember the EITC and Child Tax Credit provide you with the best opportunity to set aside money for the future. Bank accounts help you establish savings, build a credit history, gain access to lower-cost sources of credit and invest in your future.  
Get Connected: [www.bankoncalifornia.ca.gov](http://www.bankoncalifornia.ca.gov)

 **The California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)** program provides a 20% discount on your monthly gas bill if you are eligible. Get Connected:  
[www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/consumers/care](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/energy/consumers/care)

 **The California Lifeline Telephone Service** program can provide your family up to a 50% discount on your home telephone service if you qualify.  
Get Connected: 866.272.0349

 **ICanAffordCollege.com** provides students and parents with information about financial aid programs and services to help pay for college.

 **California Low Cost Auto Insurance** provides an affordable auto insurance option to qualifying low-income, good drivers.  
Get Connected: 866.602.8861

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### Get Started with our WEb Connector

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**WeConnect**  
**you** — Money, Opportunity & Dreams

*Get Connected!*  
[www.WEconnect.net](http://www.WEconnect.net)