

[Question 4: What Kind of Gift Is It, and Do Special Rules Apply as a Result?](#)

Disaster Relief Assistance

The provision of food, shelter or similar assistance received by the official through a disaster relief program will not be considered a gift subject to the reporting requirements or gift limits.¹ The assistance must be received from a governmental agency or 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.² The assistance must be available to members of the public regardless of official status.³

This document is a service of the Institute for Local Government (ILG) whose mission is to promote good government at the local level with practical, impartial, and easy-to-use resources for California communities. ILG is the nonprofit 501(c)(3) research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. For more information and to access the Institute's resources on **gift rules public officials**, go to <http://www.ca-ilg.org/gifts>.

Although the Institute tries to help local officials understand laws that apply to their public service, these materials are not legal advice. Attorneys can and do disagree on the best interpretation of the law in any given area. In addition, the law can and does change over time. Officials are encouraged to consult with an attorney or relevant regulatory authorities for up-to-date information and advice on specific situations.

As the acknowledgements section indicates, the Institute's work reflects input from a variety of sources. The Institute welcomes feedback and suggestions for improving this resource:

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This excerpt was taken from the June 2011 installment of Western City magazine gift series. The entire article can be found at www.westerncity.com

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¹ 2 Cal. Code Regs. § 18942(a)(10).

² 2 Cal. Code Regs. § 18942(a)(10).

³ 2 Cal. Code Regs. § 18942(a)(10).