

Median Household Income Survey FAQ

Who is RCAC?

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) is a non-profit that provides training, technical and financial resources and advocacy so rural communities can achieve their goals and visions. RCAC has an agreement with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to provide technical assistance under the Prop 1 Water Bond. For information about RCAC, please visit RCAC.org.

Why is RCAC conducting a median household income survey?

Conducting a median household income survey will help determine County Service Area #16 Shandon's eligibility for funding opportunities. SWRCB uses the American Census Survey (ACS) to determine the median household income of an area. Often the ACS data encompasses a large area and will not provide community specific information. The survey is being conducted only on the households within the CSA #16 (Shandon) boundaries to determine whether or not they are considered a disadvantaged community.

How will completing this survey help County Service Area #16 (Shandon)?

If the survey is completed and the results qualify CSA 16 as a disadvantaged community, it will increase the ability of the community to obtain low interest loans and grant money for many different community improvements. County Service Area #16 (CSA) will be applying for financial assistance (grants and loans) to make much needed improvements to the nearly 50-year-old drinking water system in Shandon.

How many people need to respond to the survey?

A minimum of fifty percent (50%) of households within SLO CSA #16 (Shandon) service boundary need to respond in order to qualify the survey.

How will my personal information kept private?

RCAC will never share your information. The County and SWRCB will not have access to the surveys or raw data collected. Each household is assigned a random and confidential survey number. Income results are reported by that confidential survey number. RCAC never reports in a way that can match an income to a person's name or address.

How many of these surveys will I receive?

RCAC conducts a total of three mailings including one informational customer letter and two survey requests. We will not mail another survey if we have already received one. If the survey's required response rate isn't met on the mailings, it's possible you will receive either a phone call or door to door survey request.

I already filled this out, why am I receiving another survey?

The survey reply envelopes are sent back to RCAC via third class mail and it can take up to three weeks for the post office to deliver them. In addition, RCAC works with a print house that requires a one week lead time. If you mailed back your response, it's possible that it crossed in the mail. You do not have to fill out another form if you have already sent in a completed survey.

I am the owner and I don't live there but I have renters, what should I do?

The survey should be completed by whoever is living at the property. Either check the box on the survey, "I am the owner" and fill out the tenant information on the back of the survey and mail it back to RCAC in the postage paid envelope provided. RCAC will then mail a copy of the survey to the tenant; OR please feel free to give the survey and reply envelope to your tenant to fill out and mail it back to RCAC.

This house is a vacation or vacation rental property (I live there less than 6 months out of the year). Check the vacation rental box on the survey and then mail the survey back to RCAC. Do not complete the income or household info.

Do I have to fill this out?

Although the survey is optional, a minimum response rate must be met in order to validate the survey. If that response rate isn't met then the median household income cannot be defined and it may limit the funding the community is eligible for.

Why do I have to sign the survey?

As part of the guidelines RCAC follows to conduct the survey, a signature is required in order to validate the survey response. RCAC will not be able to use a survey that is not signed. If you do not sign the survey, RCAC will send you another request to fill out the survey.