



CALFRESH PROGRAM FACT SHEET



WHAT IS THE CALFRESH PROGRAM?

The name for California’s Food Stamp Program is “CalFresh.” This name change is a result of a State law. This program aims to promote and safeguard the health and well-being of low-income households by increasing their food purchasing power and raising their levels of nutrition.

In California, the monthly CalFresh benefit is transferred to the household’s Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, known as Golden State Advantage Card. It is issued when the household’s CalFresh application is approved.

To increase CalFresh Program participation, LA County implemented the use of electronic and telephonic signatures. Also, the New Better Normal Model was adopted to enhance customer service delivery by providing alternative methods for applying for benefits, submitting documentation, and maintaining ongoing eligibility.

WHO CAN GET CALFRESH?

Individuals or households whose income is low enough and meet other eligibility factors can get CalFresh benefits. U.S. citizens, legal residents, and some qualified immigrants may receive CalFresh benefits. For example, in California, beneficiaries of the Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) are potentially eligible to receive CalFresh benefits as of June 1, 2019.

APPLICATION PROCESSING AND EXPEDITED SERVICE

CalFresh applications are processed within 30 calendar days. In emergencies, a household may receive CalFresh benefits within three days from the date of their CalFresh application. The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) policy is to issue expedited CalFresh benefits the same an application is received, whenever possible. The household must meet specified conditions that would render the household’s situation emergent (e.g., monthly gross income is less than \$150 and with less than \$100 cash on hand.)

HOW MUCH CALFRESH BENEFITS CAN A HOUSEHOLD RECEIVE?

The amount of CalFresh benefits depends on the household size, income, and expenses. The less income a household receives, the more CalFresh benefits a household can receive.

If a household has this many members ...	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
And makes less than this each month ... <small>(gross income limit)</small>	\$2,148	\$2,904	\$3,660	\$4,418	\$5,174	\$5,930	\$6,688	\$7,444
The household could receive up to this much in benefits:*	\$250	\$459	\$658	\$835	\$992	\$1,190	\$1,316	\$1,504

* Actual amount depends on household’s specific case situation (Amounts Effective October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022)

ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOUSEHOLDS

The gross income limit is not used to determine eligibility for households that contain an elderly and/or disabled member. Instead, the net monthly income limit is used to determines eligibility.

RESOURCES

Effective February 1, 2011, resources such as money on hand or in checking or savings account are no longer counted when determining CalFresh eligibility. However, if a household is applying for cash aid (CalWORKs, General Relief or Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants [CAPI] or Non-MAGI Medi-Cal), resources will be considered for those programs.


HOW MANY PERSONS ARE RECEIVING CALFRESH IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY?


Currently, DPSS provides CalFresh benefits to over 1.3 million individuals in Los Angeles County.

HOW TO APPLY

 By calling the Customer Service Center 866-613-3777;

 Online at www.dpss.lacounty.gov or www.getcalfresh.org;

 In person at any DPSS Office; or

 By mail. Call the Customer Service Center at 866-613-3777 and ask for a CalFresh application to be mailed to you. Once you have filled out your CalFresh application, mail it to your local DPSS office.