

# CALFRESH FACT SHEET

*This Fact Sheet is not to be used as a substitute for state CalFresh regulations. The Santa Cruz Human Services Department has copies of the state regulations you may review.*

## WHO CAN GET CALFRESH?

Households can qualify for CalFresh if they meet the income and other eligibility factors.

### HOUSEHOLDS MAY BE ANY OF THESE

- An individual living alone.
- An individual living with others but who buys food and cooks meals separately
- A group of individuals living together who buy food and cook meals together
- Parents living with their children 21 years old or younger (married or unmarried, with their own children or not)
- Adult children (22 years or older) living with their parents can have a separate household if they buy and cook their meals apart from their parents
- A individual or an individual with children living temporarily in a battered shelter

## RESOURCES

Cash on hand and property will not be counted for most households when determining eligibility for CalFresh.

## INCOME

To be eligible, your monthly gross income (before payroll deductions) must be the same or below the amount listed in the chart for your household size.

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	*Each additional
\$ Limit	2266	3052	3840	4626	5412	6200	6986	7772*	+ 788

Allowable Deductions:

- 20% of gross monthly earned income
- Standard deduction of \$193, \$225, or \$258, depending on household size
- The entire amount of out-of-pocket dependent care expenses are allowed as a deduction when necessary for the person to work, look for work, or prepare for work through training or schooling
- If housing costs are more than 50% of income after all other allowable deductions are considered, an excess shelter deduction of up to \$624 is allowed. Homeless households may qualify for a shelter cost deduction of up to \$167
- Households are allowed a Standard Utility Allowance of \$560 if heating or cooling bills are paid separately from rent/mortgage

## COLLEGE STUDENTS

College students (age 18 to 49) enrolled half-time or more must meet one of the following criteria on the date of the CalFresh interview:

- Working an average of 20 hours per week or 80 hours per month
- Be approved for state or federally-funded work-study for the current term or enrolled in WIOA or other programs that increase employability
- Have parental responsibility for a child under age 6
- Enrolled full-time and a single parent with responsibility for a dependent child under age 12

## EXPEDITED SERVICES

You may get Expedited Services if you are otherwise eligible, and:

- Your combined gross monthly income and liquid resources are less than your rent/mortgage and utilities
- Your gross monthly income is less than \$150.00, and your total household liquid resources are less than \$100.00
- You are a migrant or seasonal farm worker and have less than \$100 on hand right now
- Proof of identification and completion of the intake interview prior to receiving Expedited Services is required

Expedited Service requires benefits to be available by the 3rd calendar day following the date you complete the application.

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## EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES

CalFresh recipients may participate in the CalFresh Employment and Training program provided by Housing Matters.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR AGED & DISABLED HOUSEHOLDS

If you are age 60 or over, or you are receiving Social Security Disability, or Medi-Cal due to a disability, or a full VA pension: you may be eligible with income over the regular limits if you pay very high rent and utilities and/or have medical expenses over \$35 per month. This must be computed on a case-by-case basis.

## HOW MUCH CALFRESH BENEFITS WILL YOU GET?

The size of your household and your monthly income determines how much you get each month. The less income you have, the more CalFresh benefits you get.

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Max \$ Amount	281	516	740	939	1116	1339	1691	1902*

\*Add \$211 for each additional person after 8.

## HOW TO TRANSACT CALFRESH BENEFITS

Customers are issued a plastic card called an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Card that they then use to make purchases from stores and farmer's markets that accept CalFresh benefits. The stores will have machines, called POS (point of sale) machines, through which the customers will swipe their EBT cards. The amount of the purchase will be automatically deducted from the CalFresh EBT account.

## YOUR RIGHTS

Whether you are eligible or not, you have the right to be treated with dignity, respect, and courtesy when you apply for CalFresh. The Human Services Department will not discriminate against anyone because of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, religion, age, sex, marital status, physical or mental disability, ethnic group identification, sexual orientation, or domestic partnership. If you believe you have not been treated equally, contact the County Civil Rights Coordinator at (831) 454-4117.

## INTERVIEW LANGUAGE

Applicants may be interviewed in the following languages: English, Spanish, and others if necessary. Hearing impaired services are also available.

## STATE HEARING

If you feel there are unnecessary delays in processing your application, or if you feel that your worker did not understand the facts in determining your eligibility, you may write for a state hearing to: *Fair Hearings Officer, P.O. Box 1320, Santa Cruz CA 95061.*

## HOW TO APPLY

Apply online: [www.benefitscal.com](http://www.benefitscal.com) or [www.getcalfresh.org](http://www.getcalfresh.org)

Visit us at the Human Services Department's Customer Service Centers located at:

- 1020 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
- 18 W. Beach Street, Watsonville CA 95076
- Customer Service Centers are open Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- For Hearing or Speech Impaired: Call California Relay Services 711

To apply by phone, call the Phone Customer Service Center Monday–Friday 7:30 AM–12:00 PM and 1:00 PM–5:00 PM toll-free at 1(888) 421-8080

To apply by mail, send your completed and signed application to: P.O. Box 1320, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

To apply by Fax, send your completed and signed application to: (831) 786-7100

If you do not have time to complete the entire application at once, you may submit the CF 285 or the SAWS 2 PLUS forms with just your name, address, and signature to start your application process.