

# CALFRESH FACT SHEET

## WHO CAN GET CALFRESH?

Households can qualify for CalFresh if their income is low enough and they meet other eligibility factors. *In California, SSI/SSP recipients are not eligible for CalFresh.*

## 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 the parents.
- A woman or a woman with children living temporarily in a battered woman's shelter.

## RESOURCES

Effective October 1, 2018 resources (money and property) will not be counted when determining eligibility for CalFresh. If you are applying for cash aid or Medi-Cal, resources will be counted for those programs.

## 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    | 9    | 10   |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| \$ Limit       | 2024 | 2744 | 3464 | 4184 | 4904 | 5624 | 6344 | 7064 | 7784 | 8504 |

Allowable Deductions:

- 20% of gross monthly earned income.
- Standard deduction of \$164, \$174, \$204 or \$234, 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 \$552 is allowed. Homeless households may qualify for a shelter cost deduction of up to \$143.
- Households are allowed a Standard Utility Allowance of \$415 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.
- Approved for state or federally funded work study for the current term or enrolled in WIOA, EOPS 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; OR
- Your gross monthly income is less than \$150.00, and your total household liquid resources are less than \$100.00
- Proof of identification and completion of the intake interview prior to receiving Expedited Services is required. Expedited Service requires benefits be available to you 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 the Homeless Services Center.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR AGED & DISABLED HOUSEHOLDS

If you are age 60 or over, or you are receiving Social Security Disability (not SSI/SSP), 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 determine 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     |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|
| Maximum \$ Amount | 192 | 353 | 505 | 642 | 762 | 914 | 1011 | 1155* |

\*Add \$144 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: <http://www.mybenefitscalwin.org>

Or 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

Or call the Phone Customer Service Center Monday – Friday 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM toll-free at 1 (888) 421-8080 to apply by phone.

***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.***