

Disaster CalFresh Food Benefits

Application Period is October 14th-16th & October 19th-22nd

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Disaster CalFresh?

Disaster CalFresh, also known as D-CalFresh or D-SNAP, is an emergency food benefit that provides temporary food benefits to disaster victims following a flood, fire, earthquake, or any other type of natural disaster.

Why are Disaster CalFresh food benefits available?

Disaster CalFresh food benefits are available only when:

- A Presidential Declaration of Disaster with Individual Assistance has been approved in an impacted area; and
- The State of California has been approved by the federal government to operate a Disaster CalFresh program.

Who is eligible for Disaster CalFresh food benefits?

Disaster CalFresh food benefits are available to individuals and families who lived or worked in the impacted area on August 14, 2020, including Santa Cruz county.

In addition to living or working in the impacted area, eligible households must have:

- Included one or more people that do not receive regular CalFresh food benefits; and
- Spent money, between August 14 and September 12, that they won't get back because of the disaster; expenses may include, but are not limited to: losing food you already had, paying for temporary shelter, like a hotel, or other evacuation expenses, like gas, paying for new household items like toiletries or clothes, fixing damage on your home or business, paying for clean up, and more; and
- Meet income limits, as determined by the local county social services office.

What is pre-registration? When can I pre-register?

Pre-registration allows you to tell your local county social services office that you want to apply for Disaster CalFresh food benefits before the open application period. When you pre-register, you will provide your contact information and basic information about your household. You can also submit documents that the county will need to complete your application and interview. This will make the application and interview process quick and easy.

If you pre-register, your local county social services office will call you during the open application period to complete the Disaster CalFresh application and interview. The pre-registration is not the application for Disaster CalFresh food benefits.

You may pre-register anytime between October 7 and October 13, by calling or texting 1-916-237-1909.

Please note that pre-registration is **not required**. You can still apply during the open

application period between October 14 and October 22.

How do I apply for Disaster CalFresh? When can I apply?

If you pre-register, your local county social services office will call you and there is nothing else you need to do – except, keep an ear out for that phone call!

If you do not pre-register for Disaster CalFresh food benefits, you can still apply between October 14 and October 22.

You can reach your local county social services office to apply by phone by calling 1-888-421-8080 and follow the prompts. You can also apply in person at your local county social services office, or online:

- You can also apply online at <https://www.mybenefitscalwin.org/>.

If I'm approved, when and where do I pick up my Disaster CalFresh food benefits EBT card?

If approved, you will get your Disaster CalFresh food benefits on an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT card, which you can use like a debit card to buy food. At the end of your interview, your county will tell you when and where to pick up your EBT card.

Where can Disaster CalFresh food benefits be used?

You can use your Disaster CalFresh food benefits at any authorized EBT retailer, including most grocery store chains and farmers markets.

How can I learn more about Disaster CalFresh food benefits?

For additional information on Disaster CalFresh food benefits, please visit <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh/disaster-calfresh>.

