



Students and CalFresh

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



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What is CalFresh?

CalFresh, also referred to as SNAP or Food Stamps, is a program available to help meet the basic needs of Californians by providing monthly benefits on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card to buy healthy, nutritious food.

Why should I apply for CalFresh?

Many college students are eligible for financial aid to assist with paying for college. Consider CalFresh as your food aid to help you focus on school and stay healthy. CalFresh benefits help increase food budgets, allowing individuals and families to afford nutritious options including fruits, vegetables, organic foods, and more.

How much assistance could I receive?

The amount of benefits a household receives is dependent on household size, countable income, and monthly expenses such as rent and utilities.

Will receiving benefits affect my financial aid package?

No, CalFresh benefits are provided in addition to financial aid. They do not negatively impact eligibility or total amount awarded.

Will I continue to receive benefits during school breaks and summer?

Yes, CalFresh benefits are available year-round. Once you are approved for benefits, you can work with your edibility worker to maintain your benefits throughout the year.

Do I have to report CalFresh benefits on my or my family's taxes?

No.

Will applying for CalFresh take away benefits from those who need it more than I do?

No.

Will my immigration status affect my CalFresh eligibility?

Some noncitizens may be eligible for CalFresh. Even if you are not eligible for CalFresh, other members of your family [may be eligible](#). Getting CalFresh won't count as a public charge if you are working toward citizenship. If you are undocumented and facing food insecurity, check with your campus food pantry and food banks. An immigration status is not required to use their services. If you have further questions, please reach out to your UndocuLiaison.



CalFresh 101

DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

General Eligibility Requirements

1. A household must meet the below income guidelines
2. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident

Check to see if you meet the income guidelines to receive CalFresh

Use the number of people in the household to determine which row to use on the chart

Income Guidelines | October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income	CalFresh Allotment Range	COVID temporary increase (ends June 30, 2021)
1	\$2,128	\$16-204	+%15
2	\$2,874	\$16-374	+%15
3	\$3,620	\$16-535	+%15
* Add this amount for each additional member	+\$748	+\$153	+%15

Who counts as a member of my household?

A household is a person or group of people who buy and prepare food together.

- You may live with people who don't count as a household member, such as a roommate, who purchases and prepares their own food.
- If you are under the age of 22 and live with biological, adoptive, or stepparent(s) you must apply together, even if you purchase and prepare your own food.
- If you are married, you and your spouse must apply as one household.

What will be counted to determine my income?

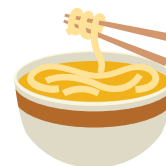
- **Earned income:** wages, self-employment (for example, driving for Lyft, delivering for Postmates, or owning your own business)
- **Unearned income:** Social security (SSA, SSDI, SSI, SSP), military or veteran's benefits, State Disability Insurance (SDI), spousal or child support, some stipends for former or current Foster Youth, unemployment insurance benefits

Income that is NOT used to determine eligibility

- **Financial Aid Funding:**
 - Federal/state college work study
 - Grants: Pell, Cal A or B, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), some private grants, etc.
 - Loans: Stafford/Perkins, deferred payment, etc.
- **Other money sources:**
 - Bills paid directly by parents (where the student never handles the money)
 - Personal loans that need to be paid back
 - Irregular or infrequent income – birthday money, occasional cash gifts



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Student Eligibility Criteria

Are you a student? CalFresh considers you a student if you are between the age 18-49 and are enrolled in 6 units or more at an institution of higher education.

Please note: If you are a student taking 6 or more units, there are multiple CalFresh exemptions that will help you meet eligibility. If you do not meet one of these exemptions provided, you are still encouraged to apply and work with a county worker to determine your CalFresh eligibility.

To qualify for CalFresh as a student, you must:

Include the supporting documentation of one of the listed exemptions when submitting your application.

1. Meet the general CalFresh eligibility criteria
2. AND meet the Student Eligibility determination for CalFresh by providing proof of the following requirements:
 - And satisfy at least ONE of these qualifications:
 - a. Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0 *
 - b. Been awarded or is eligible to work-study during the current academic year *
 - c. Receiving Cal Grant A or B
 - d. Be enrolled in a program that helps improve employability:
 - CalFresh Employment and Training Program, including Fresh Success
 - College Disabled Students Program and Services/Student Academic Support
 - Participating in CalWORKS or Welfare-to-Work Program
 - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
 - Chafee Educational Training Voucher Program
 - Additional [student programs](#) may also improve employability and may qualify as a student exemption
 - e. OR be enrolled in one of the following programs that promotes student success:
 - Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)
 - Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) Program
 - Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES)
 - Extended Foster Care (AB12 / AB212)
 - Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
 - Foster Youth Success Initiative
 - Guardian Scholars Program
 - Mathematics, Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Program

* These are temporary waivers due to the COVID-19 Pandemic



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Applying for CalFresh



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WHERE DO I APPLY?

If you have any questions or would like assistance applying for CalFresh, there are many service centers available to help you with the application process:

- Food banks in your area:
www.cafoodbanks.org/our-members/
- Call 2-1-1: this is a statewide helpline to assist with social services and benefits
- If you feel comfortable applying for CalFresh on your own, go to this website to complete an online application: www.students.getcalfresh.org/s/ccc

WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

The documentation listed below helps verify your identity and calculate income. Please make sure your name is clearly visible on all documents submitted with your application.

- Identification
 - Government issued ID: Driver License, CA ID, US Passport; or Birth Certificate AND Student ID Card
 - For non-citizens: Permanent Resident Card
- Pay Stubs
 - Dated check stubs for the last 30 days OR statement of earnings from employer
 - Work study jobs DO NOT count as income
 - If your county worker asks about your job, let them know it is work study. Work study is part of your financial aid package (not income).
- Proof of Housing Expenses
 - Rent receipt
 - First page of your lease agreement OR Venmo transaction
 - Informal rent or lease letter can be submitted.
 - Must be dated with the amount paid and contact information for the person who wrote you the letter.
 - Utilities or Other Bills: gas, electricity, water, or telephone
 - Only if the bills have your name on them OR Venmo screenshots.
- Financial Aid Award Letter
 - Financial aid award letter showing Cal Grant A or B and/or federal work study
 - Please reach out to your Financial Aid Office or Counseling Staff for a copy of your financial aid letter.
- Schedule of Classes
 - Schedule of classes showing the number of units you are taking
 - Enrollment Verification

CalFresh Annual Application Cycle

