



Leveraging CalFresh to Support Student Basic Needs

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About CDSS

- **Our Mission:**

The mission of the California Department of Social Services is to serve, aid, and protect needy and vulnerable children and adults in ways that strengthen and preserve families, encourage personal responsibility, and foster independence.

- **Our Social Impact Goal:**

Long lasting solutions that support California residents by successfully removing obstacles to opportunity.

College Students and Food Insecurity

- In 2016, 39% of college students were from households with incomes at or below the federal poverty line.
- 71% of all college students have at least 1 characteristic of a “nontraditional student. (Financially independent from parents, dependent children, single parents, etc.)
- Food insecurity affects 20% to 50% of college students nation wide which is considerably higher than the 12% rate of the US population.

Why CalFresh?

- Food insecurity is rising amongst college students due to rising expenses and tuition costs.
- There are strong correlations between health and education. Reducing food insecurity amongst college students can positively impact educational outcomes and lifetime health.
- CalFresh enrollment is associated with higher retention rates amongst first and second year college students.
- Scale, scope and reach of CalFresh.

CalFresh 101

- What is CalFresh?
- Who administers CalFresh?
- Who funds CalFresh?
- How many individuals are served by CalFresh?



CalFresh 101: General Eligibility

The amount of CalFresh benefits a household gets depends on how many people are in the household, monthly gross income and, after taking allowable deductions, monthly net income.

- **CalFresh Household:** people who purchase and prepare food together.
- **Gross Income:** all non-excludable income from any source, including earned and unearned income. For most households, monthly gross income must be at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- **Deductions:** households can deduct certain expenses from their gross income to determine their net income.
- **Net Income:** monthly income after deductions are taken into account. For all households, monthly net income must be at or below 100% of FPL.

General Eligibility Continued

Income Limits:

- **How to Apply:**
 - **Click:** GetCalFresh.org/students
 - **Call:** 1-877-847-3663 (FOOD)
 - **Come in:** find your local county office tool visit CalFreshFood.org
- **Maximum Allotment:**

Effective October 1, 2019, State and Federal laws provide for the following:

Maximum CalFresh Allotments: These are benefit amounts your household would receive if your household had no income.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Each Additional Person
\$194	\$355	\$509	\$646	\$768	\$921	\$1018	\$1164	+\$146

Income Guidelines October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$2,082
2	\$2,820
3	\$3,556
4	\$4,292
5	\$5,030
6	\$5,766
7	\$6,502
8	\$7,240
*Add this amount for each additional member	+ \$738

SNAP Student Eligibility Rule

Students are ineligible for CalFresh UNLESS they meet at least one exemption listed in 7 CFR section 273.5(b) on the date of the application or recertification interview.

CalFresh Student Definition

- A student is defined as any person who is age 18-49;
- Physically and mentally fit for employment; and
- Enrolled at least half-time, as defined by the institution of higher education

Exemptions to the Rule

If a student meets any of the following criteria, they are not subject to the student eligibility rule:

- 17 years of age or younger, or 50 years of age or older
- Enrolled less than half time, as defined by the institution of higher education
- Not expected to be enrolled next term
- A person with a disability
- Unable to work because of a physical or mental issue

Exemptions To the Rule Continued

- Employed and paid to work 20 hours a week/80 hours per month
- Approved for Work Study
- A parent of a child under age 12
- Attending school as part of an employment & training program
- Participating in a program to increase employability
- In receipt of a TANF-funded benefit

Increasing College Student Access

- Stakeholder Engagement
- Policy, Policy Guidance and Technical Assistance
- CalGrant and Programs to Increase Employability
- Work Study Verification Letter
- Career Technical Education
- Targeted Outreach

CalFresh Outreach Toolkit for Students



Where can I find the College Student Toolkit?

Visit the [CalFresh Outreach](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh-outreach/logos-and-materials) webpage

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh-outreach/logos-and-materials>

For questions about the toolkit, please contact

CalFreshAccess@dss.ca.gov



Question & Answer Session

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