CalFresh + COVID-19

What CalFresh Advocates and Outreach Workers need to know

April 16th, 2020
Welcome!

Goal: share updates and information about new and pending changes to CalFresh due to COVID-19.

Ask questions! Use the chat box on right of screen to ask questions at any time.
Topics for Today

• Overview and Updates from CDSS:
  • Emergency Allotments
  • Administrative Flexibilities
  • EBT Online Purchasing
  • P-EBT
  • Unemployment Insurance

• CalFresh Advocacy Updates from WCLP:
  • Federal Advocacy re: SNAP
  • State Advocacy re: SNAP

• Q&A
Recap of April 9th Webinar:

Webinar Materials:
• PPT deck is here.
• Recording is here.
• Q & A responses are here.

Today’s webinar materials will be posted here:
http://www.cafoodbanks.org/calfresh-advocates
Alexis Fernandez

Chief, CalFresh and Nutrition Branch
CA Department of Social Services

CalFresh | CDSS

California Department of Social Services
Emergency Allotments

Updates:

• First Emergency Allotment happened on April 12th.
  • HH’s approved for March benefits after April 12th will get Emergency Allotment soon.

• Next Emergency Allotment will happen on May 10th.

CDSS issued guidance on April 2nd.

Flyers: English, Spanish, Chinese.
Administrative Flexibilities

Approved Waivers:

• CDSS issued guidance about waiving Recertifications and SAR-7's on March 27th.
• CDSS issued guidance about waived interview requirements on April 2nd.
• CDSS issued guidance about telephonic signatures on April 2nd.

Pending Waivers:

• Restaurant Meals Program expansion.
EBT Online Purchasing

Updates:
• EBT online purchasing available starting April 28th.
• Approved vendors: Amazon, Walmart
• Cannot pay for delivery fees with EBT.

CDSS issued guidance about online purchasing on April 14th.

More here! https://www.cdss.ca.gov/ebt-online
Pandemic-EBT

Updates:
• CDSS submitted plan to USDA on April 10th.
• It has not been approved by USDA yet.
• More to come, stay tuned!
Unemployment Insurance

Updates:

• $600 per week Unemployment Insurance enhancement will count towards CalFresh income.
Jessica Bartholow

Policy Advocate
Western Center on Law and Poverty
Other COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments ("stimulus checks"):  
• Factsheets in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
• SSI (Supplemental Security Income) recipients will get the Economic Impact Payments automatically - [April 10th Social Security Administration Press Release](#).
Federal Advocacy

What we want:

• Strengthen SNAP:
  1. Boost SNAP maximum allotments by 15%.
  2. Increase minimum SNAP allotment from $16 to $30.
  3. Suspend all SNAP administrative rules that would terminate or weaken benefits.

• Extend P-EBT benefits.

• Extend waivers for program access and flexibilities.

• Suspend Student Rules.

• Ability of RMP to serve all who need it.

• Accommodations to allow SNAP to disregard rental assistance payments.
State Advocacy

Update: CA Legislature is in recess until May 4th.

What we want:

- Effectively implement and expand Online EBT.
  - We need your input!

- Effectively implement P-EBT.

- Emergency Allotments.
Resources

CAFB:
http://www.cafoodbanks.org/calfresh-advocates

CDSS:
https://www.cdss.ca.gov/#covid19

WCLP:
Q&A

Edith Martinez: edith@cafoodbanks.org

Becky Gershon: becky@cafoodbanks.org