
The 2014-15 State Budget & Its Impact on CalFresh

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Today's Discussion

- Introduction to CFPA
 - Overview of State Budget & CalFresh
 - \$ for CalFresh caseload growth
 - CalFresh drug felon ban
 - CalFresh Heat & Eat program
 - CalFresh & Gross Income Limit
 - Q & A
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Who We Are & What We Do

CFPA is a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food.

Visit www.cfpa.net for more info

Budget Overview: Resources

Enacted Budget Summary & Detail

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/>

All County Letters (ACL)

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/foodstamps/PG843.htm>

All County Information Notices (ACIN)

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/foodstamps/PG3463.htm>

General CalFresh Info & Updates

www.cfpa.net/CalFresh

Budget Overview: Caseload Growth

- The Budget assumes continued CalFresh caseload growth of roughly 130,000 HH's due to ACA implementation
 - \$20.7 million GF for the administration of these additional cases
 - CalFresh benefits are federally funded, but the state & counties have a share of cost for the administration of these benefits
 - CalFresh caseload growth is offset by economic activity of incoming CalFresh benefits
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Budget Overview: Drug Felon Ban

- The Budget repeals the lifetime ban on CalFresh benefits for individuals with prior drug related felony offenses, as long as they are complying with the conditions of their probation or parole.
- The Budget action also repeals the ban on CalWORKs basic needs assistance benefits.
- Budget allocation of \$10.6 million GF; ongoing costs of \$32.5 million GF
- **This change becomes effective April 1, 2015**
- Counties recently received All County Welfare Directors Letter, available here:

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/EntRes/getinfo/coletters/AB1468TreatmentOfDrugFelonsInCalFreshandCalWORKs.pdf>

Budget Overview: Heat & Eat

- Heat and Eat provides HH's with an energy assistance payment that qualifies the HH to receive the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) for the purpose of calculating CalFresh benefits
 - An investment of \$10.5 million GF to continue Heat & Eat program in California
 - Investment was necessary to comply with recent federal changes requiring a minimum energy assistance payment of \$20.01 per year, per household
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Budget Overview: Heat & Eat

- **Effective July 1, 2014** the new payment of \$20.01 will only be provided to HH's that will receive additional CalFresh benefits as a result (e.g. HHs otherwise not eligible for SUA, HHs not already receiving maximum benefit, HHs not already receiving maximum shelter deduction).
 - Counties recently received All County Welfare Directors Letter, available here:
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/EntRes/getinfo/coletters/StateUtilityAssistanceSubsidyHeatAndEat.pdf>
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Budget Overview: Gross Income

- **Beginning July 1, 2014** the gross income test for the TANF-funded service that confers modified categorical eligibility will be raised to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
 - Practically speaking, this change will raise the CalFresh gross income test from the current 130% FPL to 200% FPL.
 - The net income test of 100% FPL will still apply
 - As is current policy, there is no gross income test for households with an elderly or disabled member
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Budget Overview: Gross Income

How Does it Work?

- The state budget raised the gross income test to 200% of the FPL for the TANF-funded service that confers modified categorical eligibility for all CalFresh households.
 - All CalFresh households have access to the PUB 275 – Family Planning Brochure – this is the TANF-funded service that grants categorical eligibility in California
 - PUB 275 is also used to exempt resources in the determination of eligibility
 - Counties recently received All County Welfare Directors Letter, available here:
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/lettersnotices/EntRes/getinfo/coletters/CalFreshModifiedCategoricalEligibility.pdf>
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Budget Overview: Gross Income

- Maximize Impact: Many newly eligible households will have relatively higher incomes (e.g. gross income between 130% and 200% FPL). In order to meet the net income limit of 100% FPL they will need to claim allowable deductions.
 - Emphasis on dependent care deduction (for working HHs) and medical deduction (for HHs with elderly or disabled member).
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Next Steps

- Check with your County regarding their implementation plans
 - Let your network know about the changes
 - Consider updating outreach materials and application assistance procedures to reflect these changes
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Questions and Answers

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