



# SSI/SSP Recipients Can Apply for CalFresh in Summer 2019

SSI recipients who may be eligible for CalFresh benefits (food stamps) can apply beginning June 1, 2019 and any time after that date.

**SSI and SSP benefits will NOT be reduced or eliminated as a result of ending cash-out.**

This change means that an SSI recipient may receive CalFresh AND SSI/SSP benefits.

## Summary of Changes When Cash-Out Ends in Summer 2019

Newly Eligible for CalFresh	Still Eligible for CalFresh and/or State Funded Nutrition Benefits
	
<p>Most SSI recipients, individuals and SSI couples, will be newly eligible for CalFresh in summer 2019.</p>	<p>Some SSI recipients will be living in a household where other members are already receiving CalFresh. At their next reporting deadline, these households will be asked to provide information about any SSI recipients – and then their CalFresh amount should be automatically recalculated.</p>
<p><b>They will need to apply over the phone, in person, or online.</b> If approved, they will get an EBT card and the CalFresh benefit will be loaded onto it each month.</p> <p>The <b>average CalFresh benefit</b> for a household of 1 is \$130 a month. Benefits will vary based on household circumstances.</p>	<p>For some households, adding the SSI recipient and their income may <b>increase the CalFresh benefit.</b></p> <p>For other households, adding the SSI recipient and their income will lead to a <b>partial or total loss of their CalFresh benefit.</b> These households will be eligible to receive a state-funded nutrition benefit, <b>either the Supplemental Nutrition Benefit (partial loss) or the Transitional Nutrition Benefit (total loss), which will help offset the loss of CalFresh.</b></p>

[lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3729](http://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3729)

**[Get more information from the Californians for SSI coalition.](#)**

# CalFresh Information for SSI Social Service Providers

Starting in Summer 2019, people will be able to receive CalFresh benefits **and** SSI benefits at the same time. This presents a tremendous opportunity to increase food security for very low-income seniors and people with disabilities. Successfully implementing this policy change next summer will require a collaborative effort to educate and enroll SSI recipients in CalFresh.

Right now, CalFresh provides nearly four million Californians—half of them children—an average of \$130 a month on a debit (EBT) card to purchase food at grocery stores and farmers' markets. The change in summer 2019 will provide CalFresh benefits for the first time to a significant number of seniors and people with disabilities who receive SSI.

Over 1.2 million low income Californians receive very modest SSI grants to help meet basic needs. More than half are seniors, about 1 in 10 are children with disabilities, and the rest are adults with disabilities. Everyone who receives SSI is also enrolled in Medi-Cal. One third also receive In-Home Supportive Services to help them remain safely in their home.

## ***When exactly will this change go into effect?***

The change will go into effect starting June 1, 2019, with applications being accepted starting May 1.

## ***Will SSI benefits be reduced as a result of ending cash-out?***

No, SSI benefits will NOT be reduced as a result of ending cash-out. The change simply means that someone can receive both CalFresh benefits and SSI benefits at the same time.

## ***Will CalFresh benefits be counted as income when determining the SSI/SSP benefit?***

No, CalFresh benefits will not count as income or resources for SSI purposes.

## ***Should people who previously declined SSI in order to receive CalFresh apply for SSI?***

Yes! These individuals should apply for SSI after the change goes into effect on June 1, 2019.

## ***As a provider, what should I be doing now?***

Please do not encourage SSI recipients to apply for CalFresh before May 1, as they will not be eligible. Think through how the SSI recipients you work with will experience this change and what processes need to be in place to educate and enroll SSI recipients in summer 2019. Talk with other community based organizations and your County about how enrollment into CalFresh of large numbers of SSI recipients will be handled.

## ***More questions?***

The California Department of Social Services—the state agency that administers the CalFresh program—has set up a [webpage on implementation of this change](#). You can also get more information from the [Californians for SSI coalition](#).

## **CA4SSI Statewide Organizational Endorsers**

AARP, ACLU California, AllCare Alliance, The ARC CA, California Association of Food Banks, California Alliance for Retired Americans, California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS, California Church IMPACT, California Council of the Blind, California Emergency Foodlink, California Food Policy Advocates, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, California IHSS Consumer Alliance, California Partnership, California Senior Legislature, Californians for Disability Rights, CLUE: Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, Community Services Unlimited Inc., County Welfare Directors Association of CA, Courage Campaign, Disability Rights California, Educate Advocate, Food Chain Workers Alliance, Housing California, IHSS Consumers Union, Insight Center, Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California, Justice in Aging, Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California, Magnolia Women’s Recovery Center, Meals on Wheels California, National Association of Social Workers/CA Chapter, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Produce Good, Redwood Empire Food Bank, Resources for Independent Living, SEIU, Service Center for Independent Life, UDW/AFSCME Local 3930, Western Center on Law and Poverty

## **Bay Area**

ABD Productions, AIDS Housing Alliance/SF, Alameda County Commission on Aging, Alameda County Community Food Bank, Ala Costa Centers, Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council, Alameda County Homeless Action Center, Allen Temple Arms, All Saints Episcopal Church, Asian Law Alliance, Bay Area Community Services, Berkeley Food Pantry, Berkeley Food Policy Council, Bethel Community Presbyterian Church, CANV Food Bank, Center for the Vulnerable Child, Central City SRO Collaborative, City of Oakland Human Services Department, Choice in Aging, Community Action Alliance / Agnes Memorial Church, Community Action Marin, Community Action of Napa Valley Food Bank, Community Resources for Independent Living, CSI Support & Development, Disability Services & Legal Center, Downs Memorial United Methodist Church, East Bay Food Justice Project, Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa, Family Emergency Shelter Coalition, Food 2 Go, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, Harbor House Ministries, Hayward Seventh Day Adventist Church, Hazon Bay Area, Hope 4 the Heart, Independent Living Resources of Solano and Contra Costa Counties, Jewish Family & Children’s Services of the East Bay, L.A. Kitchen, Lake Merritt United Methodist Church Food Pantry, Law Foundation of Silicon Valley, LIFT – Levantate, LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Los Robles Apartments, Marin Aging Action Initiative, Marin Asian Advocacy Project, Marin Food Policy Council, Meals on Wheels of Alameda County, Meals on Wheels of San Francisco, Mercy Brown Bag Program, Mission for the Homeless. Multi-Faith Action Coalition of Contra Costa, Oakland Food Pantry, Oakland Mayor’s Commission on Aging, San Francisco Food Security Task Force, Satellite Affordable Housing Associates, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, Second Harvest Santa Cruz, Senior & Disability Action, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County, Seventh Step Foundation, SF-Marin Food Bank, Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, Silicon Valley Law Foundation, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul-San Leandro Conference, South Hayward Parish, St. Anthony Foundation, St. Francis Living Room, St. Lawrence O’Toole Parish, St. Mary’s Center, Street Level Health Project, Tenderloin Housing Clinic, The Gubbio Project, The Neighborhood Village, The R.E.F.U.G.E, Tri-City Volunteers, United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County, Whistlestop

## **Central Valley**

Central California Food Bank, Community Action Partnership of Kern County, Disability Resource Agency for Independent Living, FoodLink for Tulare County, Kern County Independent Living Center, Second Harvest Food Bank of San Joaquin & Stanislaus Counties

## **Los Angeles / Southern California**

ACLU of Southern California, Adams Vermont/Gardena CFMS, Center for Health Care Rights, Clergy Caucus of Inland Congregations United for Change, CLUE-LA, Communities Actively Living Independent & Free, Community Action Agency, Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino, Dayle McIntosh Center, Educate. Advocate., Disabled Resources Center, Inc., Downtown Women's Center, Fair Trade LA, Feeding America Riverside-San Bernardino Counties, FIND Food Bank, Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County, Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, Food & Water Watch, Friends Across The Line, Friends In Deed, Guerrilla Food Not Bombs, Homeless Action Center, Homeless Health Care Los Angeles, Hunger Action LA, Huntington Hospital Senior Care Network, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, Jewish Labor Committee Western Region, John Tennant Memorial-Episcopal Senior Communities, Latino Diabetes Association, Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel and Pomona Valley, Legal Aid of San Mateo County, Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition, Los Angeles Community Action Network, Los Angeles for a New Economy, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, Orange County Food Access Coalition, MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, Orange County Food Bank, Orange County Hunger Coalition, Personal Assistance Services Council of LA County, Project Angel Food, Prototypes, Retirement Housing Foundation, Santa Barbara Food Alliance, Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, SEIU Local 721, Social Justice Learning Institute, Southern CA Resource Services for Independent Living, Starting Over, Inc., St. Barnabas Senior Services, Thai Community Development Center, The East Los Angeles Community Union, Time for Change Foundation, Urban & Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College, VELA, Veterans For Peace Los Angeles, Westside Center for Independent Living, Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge & Services, Youth Justice Coalition

## **Sacramento/Northern California**

2-1-1 Humboldt, Area 1 Agency on Aging, California Emergency Foodlink, Capitol People First, Cottage Housing Inc., DOGFITE (Disability Organizing Group for Initiating Total Equality, Food for People, Inc., Ford Street Project, Life Support Alliance, Humboldt Area Center for Harm Reduction, Mary Immaculate Residential Facility, Mendocino Food & Nutrition Program, Placer Food Bank, Placer Independent Resource Services, River City Food Bank, Sacramento Housing Alliance, Resources for Independent Living-Sacramento, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, Sacramento Loaves & Fishes, Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness, The Resource Connection Food Bank, Yolo County Commission on Aging and Adult Services, Yolo Food Bank, Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, Yuba-Sutter Gleaners Food Bank, Inc.

## **San Diego**

Access to Independence, A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing), Community Resource Center, Feeding San Diego, Hunger Advocacy Network, IHSS Network San Diego, Imperial Valley Food Bank, Jewish Family Service of San Diego, Leichtag Foundation, Meals-on-Wheels Greater San Diego, Inc., San Diego Food Bank, San Diego Hunger Coalition, San Diego Senior Alliance

**Californians for SSI (CA4SSI) is a statewide coalition of over 200 organizations across the aging, disability rights, housing and homeless, anti-hunger and anti-poverty sectors. CA4SSI seeks to ensure that blind, aged and people living with disabilities living on SSI/SSP obtain adequate support to lead their lives with dignity.**