



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



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



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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:

<https://wclp.org/covid-19-coronavirus-information-response-and-considerations/>

Q&A

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