

## CALFRESH ELDERLY SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION

**This CalFresh application is used only if everyone applying is:**

- At least 60 or older and/or disabled.
- Not getting any income from work.
- Purchasing and preparing food together.

The application process begins when you give the county your name, address, and signature. Your application date is the day the county office gets your signed application. This will start the processing time to give you an answer on whether you can get benefits.

**Questions? See pages 6 & 7 for more information.**

**Tell us about your household**

Applicant name (first, middle initial, last)

Physical address (street address, city, state, zip code)  Home Address  Institution  Homeless

Mailing address (street address or PO box, city, state, zip code, if different from physical address)

Email address

Phone number where we can call you

Best time to call you

You may choose someone at least 18 years old to help you with CalFresh benefits.

- This person is called an “Authorized Representative” (AR). The AR can help speak for you at the interview, help complete your forms, buy food for you, and/or report changes for you. ARs are not to be household members that purchase and prepare meals with the CalFresh applicant.
- You will have to repay any benefits you get by mistake because of information this person gives the county and any benefits you did not want them to spend will not be replaced.
- You will need to give the county proof of identity to act as an AR.

I want the person below to help me with my CalFresh case.

Yes  No

I want the person below to be allowed to get and spend CalFresh benefits for my household.

Yes  No

Authorized Representative (first, middle initial, last)

Phone Number

Address (street address, city, state, zip code)

By signing below, I certify and agree that:

- I have read and understand the information on pages 6 & 7.
- I have read, understand, and agree to the Rights & Responsibilities/Program Rules on pages 8-10.
- I give my word, under penalty of perjury, that what I write in this application is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Applicant/Authorized Representative

Date

**You do not have to answer the following two questions, but they may help you get other services.**

1. Does anyone in your household have a disability? <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</span> Tip: This includes anyone recovering from a disability or major illness. If <b>yes</b> , name of person(s): _____
2. Does anyone in your household need help due to a disability? <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</span> Tip: This includes anyone needing help completing the eligibility process or anything benefits related. If <b>yes</b> , name of person(s): _____

**Expedited Service**

Let's see if your household can get benefits within 3 days. Answer the questions below for everyone applying for CalFresh.

3. Is anyone a migrant/seasonal farmworker and has anyone's income stopped?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Is your household's gross income (before deductions) less than \$150 this month?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5. Does your household have \$100 or less in cash, including amounts in bank accounts?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6. Is your household's monthly rent/mortgage and utility costs more than your household's gross income and available cash this month?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**For the questions below, use additional space on page 5 or extra paper if needed.**

**Household Members**

Tell us about everyone in the household.

<b>Applicant (from page 1)</b>		Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Social Security Number	U.S. citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Relationship to applicant <b>SELF</b>	Working? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ethnicity (Optional): <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic/Latino	Race (Optional): <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Gender Identity (Optional): <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Male <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary (neither male nor female) <input type="checkbox"/> Another gender identity <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to state	

**Household Members (Continued)**

Name (first, middle, last)		Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	
Social Security Number	U.S. citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Relationship to applicant	Working? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Ethnicity (Optional): <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hispanic/Latino	Race (Optional): <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Gender Identity (Optional): <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Female <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Male <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary (neither male nor female) <input type="checkbox"/> Another gender identity <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to state	

\*If more than 2 household members, please put their information on page 5 of this application\*

**Income**

7. Does anyone in the household get income?  Yes  No

If **yes**, tell us about all the income that everyone in your household gets. Income may include Social Security; Child Support; Alimony; Unemployment or Worker’s Compensation; Disability benefits; money from friends or relatives; Pensions; Retirement benefits, SSI/SSP; Veteran’s benefits.

Person with income	Type of income	How much	How often	Date received
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		
		\$		

**Resources**

8. Does anyone in the household have any resources (cash, money in the bank, Certificate of Deposit, stocks, bonds, etc.)?  Yes  No

**Expenses**

9. Does anyone in your household pay court-ordered child support?  Yes  No

Person who pays	How much	How often
	\$	

10. Who paid for dependent/child care? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount paid for dependent/child care in \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names of dependents/children: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

11. Does anyone in your household pay more than \$35 per month in out-of-pocket medical expenses?  Yes  No

If **yes**, tell us about any out-of-pocket medical expenses paid by anyone in your household. Expenses may include medications, doctor visits, hospital bills, transportation costs (including mileage), medical supplies, home health aides, service animal expenses, mental health expenses, and health insurance premiums. (Ask your county for a list of allowable expenses.)

Person who pays	Type of medical expense	Amount paid monthly
		\$
		\$
		\$
		\$

**Tell us about your household's shelter and utility expenses.**

12. Does your household pay rent or mortgage?  Yes  No

If **yes**, what is the payment? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  weekly  monthly  other

If you are homeless, do you have shelter costs?  Yes  No

If **yes**, what are your costs? \$ \_\_\_\_\_  weekly  monthly  other

13. Does your household pay for any of the following costs? Check all that apply and specify if it is paid weekly, monthly, or other (If the cost is included in your rent or mortgage payment, do not list it here):

- Phone (including cell)  weekly  monthly  other
- Electric and/or Gas  weekly  monthly  other
- Water  weekly  monthly  other
- Trash  weekly  monthly  other
- Property tax: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  weekly  monthly  other
- Home or Renter's insurance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  weekly  monthly  other
- Homeowner's Association (HOA) fees: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  weekly  monthly  other
- Mobile home lot rent: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  weekly  monthly  other
- Other (please specify): \$ \_\_\_\_\_  weekly  monthly  other

**Answer the questions below about everyone in the household.**

14. Did anyone in your household win a substantial amount in a single bet or hand from lottery/gambling that is equal to, or greater than the maximum resource limit for elderly/disabled household members?  Yes  No

15. Has anyone been convicted of welfare fraud or misuse of benefits in any state?  Yes  No

16. Is anyone a fleeing felon or found to be in violation of their parole or probation?  Yes  No

17. Have you or any member of your household been convicted as an adult, after February 7, 2014, of aggravated sexual abuse, murder, sexual exploitation, and/or other abuse of children, a Federal or State offense involving sexual assault, or an offense under State law determined by the Attorney General to be similar to any of the offenses listed, and not in compliance with the terms of their sentence?  Yes  No

**Additional Writing Space (if needed):**

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## **Important Information You Need to Know**

### **Application Process**

- Complete pages 1 to 5.
- Make sure you read pages 6 thru 10 and then **sign on page 1**.
- Make copies of any documents needed as proof (e.g., income, proof of identity for yourself, proof of out-of-pocket medical expenses, or power of attorney). You can submit any documents with your application.
- Submit your application:
  - In-person, By Phone, By Mail, By Fax: To the county social services office where you live.
  - Online: You can also apply for CalFresh or other programs online by going to <http://www.benefitscal.com/>.
- Complete an interview with the county to discuss your application. You have the option to complete your interview over the phone, in person at the county office, or another place arranged with the county.

**Have questions? Need help applying?** Call the CalFresh Benefits Helpline at 1-877-847-3663 or contact your county social services office. If you have limited English, ask for a free interpreter. If you need help because of a disability, dial 7-1-1 or talk to your county social services office.

### **Noncitizens**

- You can apply for and get CalFresh benefits for eligible people, even if your family includes others who are not eligible.
- Applying for or getting CalFresh benefits does not affect the immigration status for you or your family. CalFresh is NOT a “Public Charge.” Immigration information is private and confidential.
- The immigration status of noncitizens who apply for benefits will be checked with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Federal law says the USCIS cannot use the information for anything else other than for cases of fraud.

### **Opting Out**

You do not have to give immigration information, Social Security numbers, or documents for any noncitizen family member(s) who are not applying for CalFresh benefits. The county will need to know their income and resource information to correctly determine your household's benefits. The county will not contact USCIS about the people who don't apply for CalFresh benefits.

### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement (Do Not Send Applications Here)**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local)



## **Rights & Responsibilities/Program Rules**

**Call your county office to help understand your rights and responsibilities.**

**You may ask for a fair hearing if you disagree with a decision about benefits. To do so:**

- Call (800) 952-5253. For hearing rights or speech impaired who use TDD (800) 952-8349 *or*
- Go online at [acms.dss.ca.gov](http://acms.dss.ca.gov) *or*
- Fax the Hearing Request form to (833) 281-0905
- You may get free legal help at your local legal aid or welfare rights office. The back of your county notice lists your free local help or call the numbers listed above.

**You have the right to get a copy of this application.** Ask your county office for a copy.

**You have the right to a timely decision.** Unless there is a delay, an emergency, or an administrative problem beyond the county's control, expect a decision within 30 days of applying. For emergency benefits, you will get the county's decision within 3 days.

**You may get free aids & services to help you participate if you have a disability.** These are called "*reasonable accommodations*." Call your county office to ask for these, if needed.

**You have the right to privacy and confidentiality.** We will only share information about your case when it's connected to program administration, allowed by law/court order, or you give your permission. This is also required of all the agencies that work with us.

**Give proof of your household's expenses that may help you get more benefits.** Not giving proof to the county is the same as saying that you do not have that expense. You then will not be able to get more benefits.

**You need to report changes that could affect your benefits.** The county office will give you information about what, when, and how to report. If you don't report when required your CalFresh benefits may be lowered or stopped.

**You must provide a Social Security number (SSN) or proof that you have applied for an SSN for each person on this application.** Federal and State law requires it as a condition of eligibility. There are some exceptions. If you need more information about those exceptions, please ask your county office.

**You must tell the county right away if you get benefits from another state.** You must also report if anyone has been convicted of lying about where they live to get benefits from more than one state in the past 10 years.

**You must cooperate with the county and the state if your application is selected for a quality control review.** This includes giving proof of information and letting us get that proof if you can't.

**You need to give accurate information.** If the information is not accurate, benefits may be reduced and, you may be asked to repay benefits. If you are found to have intentionally given false or misleading information, you could be barred from getting benefits. You may also be charged with a crime.



**You must not:**

- sell your CalFresh benefits.
- use CalFresh to buy ineligible items (e.g., non-food, alcohol, or tobacco products).
- trade CalFresh for illegal drugs, firearms, ammunition, or explosives.
- let anyone use your EBT card unless they are buying food for your household.
- use or have someone else’s EBT card unless you are buying food for their household.
- get food benefits in more than one state for the same month.

Anyone found guilty of any of the above misuse shall face penalties. This includes a ban from the CalFresh program for a specific period, a fine, and imprisonment. The specific period of the ban can be one year, two years, or permanently.

**Program Rules and Penalties**

You are committing a crime if you give information that is false or untrue on purpose to try to get CalFresh benefits that you are not eligible to get. It is also a crime to on purpose help someone else get benefits that they are not eligible to get. You must pay back any benefits you get that you were not eligible to get.

<p><b>Program Violations</b>  <b>For CalFresh: I understand I may have committed an intentional program violation if I do any of the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hide information or make false statements</li> <li>• Use Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards that belong to someone else or let someone else use my card</li> <li>• Use CalFresh benefits to buy alcohol or tobacco</li> <li>• Trade, buy, sell, steal, or give away CalFresh benefits or EBT cards, or <u>attempt</u> to trade, buy, sell, steal, or give away CalFresh benefits or EBT cards</li> <li>• Try to get dual benefits, for example, apply in two or more different counties or states at the same time</li> <li>• Submit false documents for children or adult household members who are not eligible or who do not exist</li> <li>• Violate conditions of my probation or parole</li> <li>• Flee after a felony conviction</li> <li>• Purchase (buy) a product with CalFresh benefits that has a return deposit, intentionally (on purpose) throw away the contents and return the container for the deposit amount or <u>attempt</u> to return the container for the deposit amount</li> <li>• Buy a product with CalFresh benefits and intentionally resell it for cash or anything other than eligible food</li> </ul>	<p><b>Penalties</b>  <b>I may:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lose CalFresh benefits for 12 months for the first offense and be required to repay all CalFresh benefits overpaid to me</li> <li>• Lose CalFresh benefits for 24 months for the second offense and be required to repay all CalFresh benefits overpaid to me</li> <li>• Lose CalFresh benefits permanently for the third offense and be required to repay all CalFresh benefits overpaid to me</li> <li>• Be fined up to \$250,000 imprisoned up to 20 years or both</li> </ul>
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<b>Program Violations</b> <b>For CalFresh: I understand I may have committed an intentional program violation if I do any of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade CalFresh benefits or <u>attempt</u> to trade CalFresh benefits for: cash, firearms, non-eligible goods, or controlled substances such as drugs</li> </ul>	<b>Penalties</b> <b>I may:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lose CalFresh benefits for 10 years for each offense</li> <li>• Lose CalFresh benefits permanently</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give false information about who I am and where I live, so I can get extra CalFresh benefits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lose CalFresh benefits for 24 months for the first offense</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have been convicted of trading, selling, or <u>attempting</u> to trade CalFresh benefits worth more than \$500, or trading or <u>attempting</u> to trade CalFresh benefits for firearms, ammunition, or explosives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lose CalFresh benefits permanently for the second offense</li> </ul>