



**TULARE COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

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Early CalFresh Benefits Release for March

VISALIA, CA – To lessen the impact of the early issuance of February benefits and the resulting gap in food assistance, CalFresh benefits for March are being issued on Friday, March 1, 2019, rather than on the normal staggered cycle through the tenth of the month.

This issuance affects those individuals who have provided the needed paperwork and are deemed eligible for March benefits by February 22, 2019. Any applications or other paperwork received and processed after February 22, 2019, will be issued on the normal March stagger date.

“We hope this effort to cover the gap in food assistance necessitated by the federal government shutdown will benefit our clients,” said Vienna Barnes, Human Services Branch Deputy Director with the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency. “Normal staggered CalFresh issuances will resume for April benefits.”

CalFresh benefits provide temporary help for qualifying community members with low income to be able to feed their families nutritious food, including fruits and vegetables, whole-grain foods, dairy products, and other healthy foods. Nearly half of those who receive CalFresh benefits are children. This program is a cornerstone of the national assistance safety net. According to federal SNAP data, CalFresh benefits the community, as each \$5 in benefits generates almost twice that amount in economic activity for the community.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, “An average of 4.1 million Californians living in 2 million households received CalFresh benefits each month in federal fiscal year 2017. Each participant received, on average, \$136 a month toward household grocery costs. Californians received slightly more than \$6.7 billion in federal SNAP benefits, or 10.6% of the total national spending.” Those who are eligible to qualify based on income includes seniors, working individuals, and legal immigrants.

For questions concerning CalFresh benefits, please call 1-800-540-6880. For more information about CalFresh, log on to <http://mycalfresh.org/>.

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