Many low-income Californians, even those who work, rely on public support through CalFresh—also known as Food Stamps or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)—to supplement their family’s nutrition. The Fresh Success program, developed by the Foundation for California Community Colleges (Foundation), helps CalFresh recipients improve their job prospects and reduce dependency on public benefits through federally funded CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T).

New CalFresh E&T Model
The Foundation helps California Community Colleges and community organizations to start CalFresh E&T programs, in partnership with their counties. The Foundation provides tools, templates, and a training curriculum to ease the start-up process, continue to support effective program practices, and help manage federal funding. In 2016, Gavilan College and Cosumnes River College piloted this new model, and three additional sites across California began implementing the program in 2017.

Program Services
Services vary in each Fresh Success program, and may include development of job readiness, work-based learning, career counseling, interview training, job search, job placement and retention services, educational plans, academic monitoring, tutoring, workshops on budgeting, and case management. Participants will also receive help with costs such as transportation, textbooks, and supplies.

Program Benefits
Improves skills for unemployed and low-wage workers. CalFresh E&T is a critical tool that can provide employer-valued skills training to low-income Californians.

Increases participation in CalFresh. CalFresh is one of the largest anti-poverty programs in California. CalFresh E&T incentivizes people to enroll in CalFresh by offering additional benefits on top of access to nutritious food.

Extends benefits to students. Community College students are usually excluded from CalFresh benefits if they are not working at least half-time; however, participation in an E&T program provides an exemption so they can receive food benefits while in school.

Provides a path from poverty. Research shows completing a certificate or degree at a community college is associated with increased wages and employment opportunities.

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Partner and Supporters
• AC Strategic Solutions
• California Department of Social Services
• California Welfare Directors Association
• California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office
• The California Wellness Foundation
• Thomas J. Long Foundation
• U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
• Western Center on Law and Poverty
• Walter S. Johnson Foundation
• Y&H Soda Foundation

Fresh Success Providers
• Gavilan College
• Cosumnes River College
• Opportunity Junction
• Rubicon Programs
• Southwestern College

How to get involved
• Start a Fresh Success program in a community college or community-based organization
• Join with other funders to support program growth through planning, technical assistance, and training for new sites

The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official foundation to the California Community Colleges’ Board of Governors and Chancellor’s Office. The Foundation’s mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation and receives no direct state support.

For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org.