

# CalFresh 101

## DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY & STUDENT EXEMPTIONS

### General Eligibility Requirements

1. A household must meet the income guidelines. A household is a person or group of people who buy and prepare food together.
2. Household must contain at least one person with a qualifying immigration status. Visit [GetCalFresh.org/immigrants](https://www.getcalfresh.org/immigrants) for more information.

INCOME GUIDELINES October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022		
Household Size	Gross Monthly Income	CalFresh Allotment Range
1	\$2,148	\$20-250
2	\$2,904	\$20-459
3	\$3,660	\$20-658
* Add this amount for each additional member	+\$758	+\$188

Look up the most up-to-date income guidelines online on the California Department of Social Services website. [cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/cdss-programs/calfresh/eligibility-and-issuance-requirements](https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/cdss-programs/calfresh/eligibility-and-issuance-requirements)

### CalFresh and Students

If you are between 18 to 49 years old and enrolled in 6 units or more at an institution of higher education, then you are considered a student under CalFresh rules.

#### Based on this definition, do you identify as a student?

YES ↻

NO →

To qualify for CalFresh as a student, you must:

1. Meet the general CalFresh eligibility criteria (above)
- AND**
2. Satisfying at least ONE of these qualifications:
    - Working an average of 20 hours per week or a total of 80 hours per month
    - Been awarded work-study during the current academic year
    - Approved for TANF-funded Cal Grant A or B
    - Responsible for the care of a child under the age of 6
    - Are a single parent and taking care of a child under the age of 12:
    - Be enrolled in a program that helps improve employability:
      - CalFresh Employment and Training Program, including Fresh Success
      - Participating in CalWORKS or Tribal TANF
      - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
    - Enrolled in an approved Career and Technical Assistance Program (Coming Fall 2022)

If you do not identify as a student (between the ages of 18-49 and enrolled in at least 6 units) or meet one of the student exemptions listed, you may still be eligible for CalFresh. Scan the QR code (above) to apply or visit [Students.GetCalFresh.org/s/ccc](https://Students.GetCalFresh.org/s/ccc).



Additional student programs have been approved to qualify students for a student exemption. They are listed here along with all approved Local Programs that Increase Employability (LPIE): [cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh-resource-center/policy](https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh-resource-center/policy) Under Student Resources, select “*CalFresh Student Eligibility: List of Approved LPIEs*”

# CalFresh 101 continued



## APPLYING FOR CALFRESH

### What will be counted to determine my income?

- **Earned income:** wages, self-employment (forexample, driving for Lyft, delivering for DoorDash, or owning your own business)
- **Unearned income:** Social security (SSA, SSDI, SSI, SSP), military or veteran's benefits, State Disability Insurance (SDI), spousal or child support, some stipends for former or current Foster Youth, unemployment insurance benefits



### Income that is NOT used to determine eligibility

- **Financial Aid Funding:**
  - Federal/state college work study
  - Grants: Pell, Cal A or B, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), some private grants, etc.
  - Loans: Stafford/Perkins, deferred payment, etc.
- **Other money sources:**
  - Bills paid directly by parents (where the student never handles the money)
  - Personal loans that need to be paid back
  - Irregular or infrequent income – birthday money, occasional cash gifts

## WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

The documentation listed below helps verify your identity and calculate income. Please make sure your name is clearly visible on all documents submitted with your application.

- Identification
  - Government issued ID: Driver License, CA ID, US Passport; or Birth Certificate AND Student ID Card
  - For non-citizens: Permanent Resident Card
- Pay Stubs
  - Dated check stubs for the last 30 days OR statement of earnings from employer
  - Work study jobs DO NOT count as income
    - If your county worker asks about your job, let them know it is work study. Work study is part of your financial aid package and is not considered income. The county may still request a copy of this to verify your work study.
- Proof of Housing Expenses  
Please note that you do not need an address to apply for CalFresh food benefits.
  - Rent receipt
    - Copy of lease agreement OR Venmo transaction
  - Informal rent or lease letter can be submitted
    - Must be dated with the amount paid and contact information for the person who wrote you the letter.
  - Utilities or Other Bills: gas, electricity, water, or telephone (not a required verification)
    - Bills in your name OR Venmo screenshots with statement from the account holder.
- Financial Aid Award Letter
  - Financial aid award letter showing TANF-funded Cal Grant A or B and/or federal work study
    - Please reach out to your Financial Aid Office or Counseling Staff for a copy of your financial aid letter.
- Enrollment Verification
  - Schedule of classes showing the number of units you are taking

### CalFresh Annual Application Cycle

