

# The CalFresh Program

## **What is the CalFresh Program?**

*CalFresh* is the new name in California for the Food Stamp Program. It is a federal program that helps people with low incomes purchase the food they need for good health and nutrition. People currently using food stamps do not need to reapply; they will be automatically enrolled.

## **Can I qualify if I have a job?**

You may still qualify for *CalFresh* if you earn income from a job, CalWORKs, General Assistance/Relief, or other cash assistance. See the section below for more information on eligibility.

## **Can I still qualify if I own a vehicle or own a house?**

You may still qualify for *CalFresh* if you own vehicles and/or the home you live in. These resources are not counted against your resource limit when you apply for *CalFresh* benefits.

## **Can I still qualify if I have a bank account?**

You may still qualify if you have a bank account. You can have up to \$2000 in the bank or other assets and still qualify for *CalFresh*; you do not need to spend your savings account down to \$0 before applying for food stamps. If there is someone in your household who is elderly or disabled, you can have up to \$3000 in the bank or other assets. Your furniture and other personal belongings do not count as assets.

## **Can I still qualify if I have a retirement account?**

You may still qualify if you have a retirement account.

## **Will I have to pay back the CalFresh benefits?**

You will not have to pay back any *CalFresh* you are eligible to receive.

## **Will other shoppers know I'm using CalFresh?**

When you qualify for *CalFresh*, you are issued an EBT (electronic benefits transfer) card. The **EBT card** looks and works just like a debit card – when you are at the checkout stand at the grocery store, you slide your card in the machine and enter your PIN just as you would with a debit card.

You can even check your card balance online, by going to [www.ebt.ca.gov](http://www.ebt.ca.gov).



Card Number

## **How much will I get each month?**

The amount you get depends on factors including your income, assets, expenses, and family size. Most households receive about \$100 per person.

## **How can I apply for CalFresh?**

Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services offers free assistance to help you apply for *CalFresh*. You can reach us by calling (916) 231-0499.

# BASIC CalFresh PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

## Resources

Resource limits are \$2,000 for all households except those that have a member who is under the age of 18, or who has a disability, or who is 60 years of age or older. As of January 2010, households with at least one member under age 18 may have resources that exceed \$2000. Households with at least one member who has a disability or is over age 60 may have up to \$3,000 in resources. Certain resources are exempt such as vehicles and the home of residence. All countable resources will be totaled and then compared against the resource limit when making an eligibility determination.

## Income

Most types of income are counted. The gross income test is used to determine if the household is eligible for benefits. The gross income is also the maximum income that the household can have and still receive any benefits. Net income means gross income minus allowable deductions. Households are allowed deductions such as shelter costs, medical expenses (elderly/disabled), court ordered child support payments, etc. The net income is the amount of countable income used to determine the *CalFresh* benefits for the household.

## Income Limits

For October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2011, the income limits are below. If the household has mixed immigration statuses or a member who is elderly or disabled, the table below does not apply.

People in Household	Gross Income (Monthly)	Net Income(Monthly)
1	\$1,174	\$ 903
2	1,579	1,215
3	1,984	1,526
4	2,389	1,838
5	2,794	2,150
6	3,200	2,461
7	3,605	2,773
8	4,010	3,085
Each additional member	+406	+312

## Benefits

The maximum benefit per household, depending upon household size is:

People in Household	Gross Income(Monthly)
1	\$200
2	367
3	526
4	668
5	793
6	952
7	1,052
8	1,202
Each additional member	+150