

FREE MONTHLY NUTRITION ASSISTANCE FOR SSI/SSP PARTICIPANTS

If you receive SSI/SSP, you may be eligible to extra money for food each month with CalFresh!

Receiving **CalFresh** will NOT change your SSI/SSP benefit amounts.



APPLY FROM HOME TODAY!

CALL 2-1-1 or online at GetCalFresh.org or MyBenefitsCalWin.org

YOU COULD QUALIFY FOR CALFRESH IF: YOU HAVE LOW OR FIXED INCOME.

If you have this many people in your family INCLUDING YOURSELF	1	2	3
You may get CalFresh if your gross monthly income is less than:	\$2,024	\$2,744	\$3,464



Free nutrition assistance could be just a phone call away!



ASISTENCIA NUTRICIONAL MENSUAL **GRATUITA** PARA LOS PARTICIPANTES DE SSI/SSP

Si usted recibe la Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario SSI/SSP, podría ser elegible para recibir dinero extra para alimentos cada mes con CalFresh!

Recibir **CalFresh** NO cambiará la cantidad de sus beneficios de SSI/SSP.



¡SOLICITE DESDE SU CASA HOY MISMO!
LLAME AL 2-1-1 o visite
GetCalFresh.org o
MyBenefitsCalWin.org

USTED PODRÍA CALIFICAR PARA CALFRESH SI: TIENE UN INGRESO BAJO O FIJO.

Si tiene el siguiente número de personas en su familia, INCLUYÉNDOSE A USTED:	1	2	3
Puede recibir CalFresh si su ingreso mensual bruto es menor que:	\$2,024	\$2,744	\$3,464



¡La asistencia nutricional gratuita podría estar a solo una llamada telefónica!





Fact Sheet

CalFresh and the End of SSI Cash-Out

As of June 2019, SSI recipients can be eligible for CalFresh!

If your client receives SSI, he/she could receive additional money through CalFresh

- SSI benefits will NOT be reduced or eliminated because of this change.
- SSI recipients living alone or with another person not currently receiving CalFresh will likely be eligible for benefits and will need to apply for CalFresh.
- SSI recipients living with others already receiving CalFresh will automatically be enrolled in the program between June and December 2019.

Eligibility Scenarios for SSI Recipients

1. **SSI recipients living alone or with another person not receiving CalFresh – Apply for CalFresh!**
Most SSI recipients and couples living on their own will be newly eligible for CalFresh. If approved, they will receive an EBT card with CalFresh food benefits loaded monthly. Average food benefits for a household of one is estimated to be \$130 per month.
2. **SSI recipients living in households with more than one person and not currently receiving CalFresh may be eligible based on household circumstances and income – Consider applying for CalFresh!**
If they live in a household with more than one person and your household does not currently receive CalFresh, they can still apply!
 - If they would like to purchase food separately, they may be able to apply as their own household.
 - If they purchase and prepare food with the rest of the household, they can apply with the rest of the household members.
3. **SSI recipients living in households with members already receiving CalFresh will see similar levels or an increase in benefits – If they live with people who already receive CalFresh, they do not have to apply again. CalFresh eligibility will be AUTOMATICALLY determined.**
 - If adding the SSI recipient to the household increases the amount of benefits the household is eligible for, that amount will be added to the benefits already received on the existing EBT card.
 - In the case that including SSI income would reduce the overall amount of CalFresh benefits the household is eligible for, the household will continue receiving CalFresh benefits by receiving a Supplemental Nutritional Benefit on the existing EBT card as long as it continues to submit timely semi-annual reports and annual recertifications.
 - In the case that including SSI income would make the household over income and ineligible for CalFresh, the household will continue receiving CalFresh benefits by receiving a Transitional Nutritional Benefit on the existing EBT card as long as it continues to submit timely semi-annual reports and annual recertifications.

Important Considerations

Shelter and medical cost deductions will play a critical role in helping clients maximize their benefit amounts. If possible, help SSI recipients get their full benefits by assisting them in gathering documentation of these costs before they apply.

Applying for CalFresh is Easy! Turn the page over to learn where and how to apply for CalFresh.





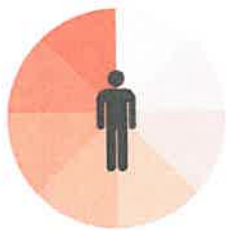
CalFresh



APPLY ONLINE WWW.GETCALFRESH.ORG



APPLY OVER THE PHONE BY CALLING 2-1-1



APPLY IN PERSON AT A COUNTY OFFICE OR WITH ANY OF THESE NONPROFITS:



For more information on locations and hours of operation, please visit:

sdhunger.org/calfresh-assistance

Maximizing Standard Medical Deductions

New eligibility guidelines have made it easier for seniors and people with disabilities to claim medical expenses with the new Standard Medical Deduction (SMD)! Now, individuals who are over 60 years of age and individuals living with a disability who have medical expenses of more than \$35.00 a month will qualify for a Standard Medical Deduction of \$120.00 a month. What this means is that these clients will have an easier time maximizing their benefit allotment!

Clients will still need to provide proof of medical expenses but they only need to document expenses of more than \$35.00 a month to get the full deduction. If you have clients with expenses higher than \$155.00 a month, those clients can claim actual expenses by providing proof of medical expenses over \$155.00 a month.

Monthly Medical Expenses	Deduction Client Qualifies For
Under \$35.00 a month	Not eligible for deduction
\$35.01-\$155.00 a month	Eligible for Standard Medical Deduction of \$120
\$155.01 a month and over	Eligible for actual expenses over \$35.00 a month

Types of Medical Expenses

Many clients who qualify for the medical deduction are not aware that they could get additional benefits by providing proof of medical expenses. Outlined below are the types of medical expenses that can be claimed by individuals who qualify for the medical deduction. Only medical expenses that are paid out of pocket by the CalFresh household can be included.

Types of Medical Expenses that Can Be Claimed	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of medical and dental care, including co-payment for visits • Hospitalization or nursing care • Prescription medications and medical supplies • Over the counter medication, when approved by a qualified professional • Health and hospitalization insurance premiums • Rehabilitation services • Acupuncture, chiropractic or herbal treatments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare premiums or Medi-Cal share of cost • Dentures, hearing aids, and prosthetics • Cost for obtaining/maintaining service animal • Reasonable transportation and lodging expenses needed to obtain medical treatment • Prescription eyes glasses and contact lenses • Cost of attendant services & home health aids



Ways to Verify Medical Expenses:

The County can accept a wide range of documents to prove medical expenses. Listed below are some ideas of ways to document medical expenses, but please note that these are just suggestions on how to document medical expenses.

Common examples of verifications include, but are not limited to:

- A print out from a doctor or health provider showing co-payments and dates. The dates of appointments can be used to help provide documentation of transportation costs to and from medical appointments.
- Pharmacy print outs of prescription drugs costs and date
- Receipts for over-the-counter medications and other health supplies recommended by a licensed health care practitioner
- Bills or statements showing private insurance premiums and deductibles

Additional Tips & Considerations

- Most seniors and people with disabilities are not claiming medical expenses so make sure to inform and screen households for the new SMD.
- While applicants only need to report and claim medical expenses over \$35.00 a month, whenever possible encourage them to claim actual expenses so they can maximize their benefit amount.
- Outstanding medical bills can be included as medical expenses. The bill can be averaged over the remaining months in the CalFresh certification period or claimed in one month- whichever is better for the household.





Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in California

What is SSI?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI), is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have limited income and few resources. SSI is for people who are 65 or older, as well as people of any age, including children, who are blind or who have disabilities.

To qualify for SSI, you must also have little or no income and few resources. The value of the things you own must be less than \$2,000 if you're single or less than \$3,000 for married couples living together. We don't count the value of your home if you live in it, and, usually, we don't count the value of your car. We may not count the value of certain other resources either, such as a burial plot.

To get SSI, you must also apply for any other government benefits for which you may be eligible. You must live in the United States or the Northern Mariana Islands to get SSI. If you're not a U.S. citizen, but you lawfully reside in the United States, you may still be able to get SSI. For more information, read a copy of *Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Noncitizens* (Publication No. 05-11051).

The state of California adds money to the federal payment. The single payment you get at the beginning of each month includes both the federal SSI payment and your supplement from California.

Medical assistance

If you get SSI, you can usually get medical assistance (Medi-Cal) automatically. A separate Medi-Cal application isn't necessary. If you have questions about Medi-Cal, contact your local county health or human services office.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – also known as CalFresh

You may apply or recertify for CalFresh benefits at any Social Security office if all of the following apply:

- You are currently living in California
- You are getting or applying for SSI
- You live alone or in a household where everyone is either getting or applying for SSI
- You are not already getting CalFresh benefits
- You have not filed for CalFresh within the past 60 days

You can use the online SNAP Pre-Screening Eligibility Tool at www.snap-step1.usda.gov/fns to see if you may be eligible for SNAP. You may also call SNAP's toll-free line at 1-800-221-5689. Visit www.cdss.ca.gov/food-nutrition/calfresh to apply for CalFresh, or for more details about the CalFresh program.

Other social services

Individuals who qualify for SSI often are eligible for additional programs and services provided by their local county health or human services office. These other services or benefits may include:

- A special allowance for assistance dogs for people who are blind or who have a disability
- Certain domestic and personal care services provided to eligible people who are elderly, blind, or who can't perform the services themselves, and who can't safely remain in their own homes unless such services are provided
- Protective services

For more information, contact your local county health or human services office.

Monthly SSI payment amounts

The table below lists the combined federal and state payment amounts. Not all SSI recipients get the maximum amount. Your payment may be lower if you have other income.

Category	2019 total monthly payment		
	<i>Aged</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Blind</i>
Single people			
Independent living status	\$931.72	\$931.72	\$988.23
Non-medical out-of-home care	\$1,194.37	\$1,194.37	\$1,194.37
Independent living status, no cooking facilities	\$1,018.04	\$1,018.04	N/A
Living in the household of someone else	\$678.24	\$678.24	\$734.76
Disabled minor child		\$836.15	
Disabled minor child in the household of another		\$582.67	
Aged or disabled couples			
Independent living status	\$1,564.14		
Non-medical out-of-home care	\$2,388.74		
Independent living status, no cooking facilities	\$1,736.77		
Living in the household of someone else	\$1,183.75		
Blind couples			
Independent living status			\$1,715.19
Living in the household of someone else			\$1,334.80
Non-medical out-of-home care			\$2,388.74
Blind person with an aged or disabled spouse			
Independent living status			\$1,657.65
Living in the household of someone else			\$1,277.26
Non-medical out-of-home care			\$2,388.74
Living in a Medicaid Facility			
Single people	\$51.00	\$51.00	\$51.00
Couple	\$102.00	\$102.00	\$102.00

Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to contact us anytime, anywhere is to visit www.socialsecurity.gov. There, you can: apply for benefits; open a *my* Social Security account, which you can use to review your *Social Security Statement*, verify your earnings, print a benefit verification letter, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Medicare card, and get a replacement SSA-1099/1042S; obtain valuable information; find publications; get answers to frequently asked questions; and much more.

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or use our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**, if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

If you need to speak to a person, we can answer your calls from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. We ask for your patience during busy periods since you may experience a higher than usual rate of busy signals and longer hold times to speak to us. We look forward to serving you.



Securing today
and tomorrow

Social Security Administration
Publication No. 05-11125
June 2019 (Recycle prior editions)
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in California
Produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense