

CalFresh COVID-19 Updates

As part of the CalFresh COVID-19 response, CalFresh has enacted several measures to ensure individuals and families are able to continue meeting their nutritional needs: food benefits, administrative flexibilities, and emergency food support.

Administrative Flexibilities

Report Waiver and Extended Certification Periods

Existing CalFresh recipients do not need to complete their March, April, or May periodic renewal also known as SAR-7 to continue receiving benefits. The Executive Order waives eligibility redeterminations for 90 days, or until June 15, 2020.

Interview Waiver

New CalFresh applicants do not need to complete an interview if they provide identity verification and other required documents, including proof of earnings if applicable, with their application. If you have recently lost a job because of the COVID-19 epidemic and/or are receiving unemployment you are still eligible to apply. For assistance starting a new CalFresh application, fill out our [CalFresh Assistance Form](#).

Telephonic Signature

CalFresh has been granted flexibility to more easily accept signatures from CalFresh applicants over the phone. If you need assistance updating your CalFresh case we can connect you with our partner Felicia, a San Diego County caseworker, who has been working with us closely on many of our UCSD student cases. Felicia is able to process any over the phone signatures or updates you may need to complete your CalFresh application.

EBT Online Purchasing Statewide

As of April 28, 2020 CalFresh recipients will be allowed to use EBT cards to make online purchases and request grocery delivery at approved retailers statewide. Currently Amazon and Walmart are accepting EBT online purchases.

Additional Food Benefits

Emergency CalFresh Allotments

Existing CalFresh recipients will receive a supplement payment to bring their benefits up to the maximum amount based on household size. Households already at the maximum amount will not receive an emergency allotment. Emergency allotments will be issued April 12 and May 10

Ex. If you are currently receiving \$95 for a household size of one, during the month of April and May you will receive \$194, which is the maximum amount for a household of one.

You do not need to make any changes or updates to your case. Benefits will be directly added to your EBT card. To check your balance statement check your most recent grocery receipt or call the number behind your EBT card for your current balance.

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

Families with children eligible for free or reduced-priced meals whose school facilities are closed will be eligible to receive P-EBT benefits. P-EBT benefits will be issued on EBT cards and can be used to buy groceries, just like CalFresh food benefits.

Implementation date TBD.

On & Off Campus Student Updates

Relocating

If you are currently moving out of San Diego County because of the effect of COVID-19, you do not need to update your address as of now. You may continue using your benefits in other counties and states while you are away. If you run into any issues or do not plan on returning to San Diego for the next academic year of 2020/2021, please reach out to us with any questions you may have.

HDH 5100 Dining Plan

Students who are enrolled in the 5100 Meal Plan with HDH will temporarily qualify for CalFresh as long as you meet all other requirements. In the past students who qualified for CalFresh, but were enrolled in the 5100 meal plan were not granted benefits because the 5100 meal plan is considered to cover all your meals. The county is currently making an exception in order to assist any students who may be limited to resources and food accessibility. Feel free to reapply if you did not qualify in the past due to this regulation.