SSI/SSP Recipients Will Be Eligible for CalFresh in Summer 2019

In the summer of 2019, the ‘cash-out’ policy that bans SSI recipients from receiving CalFresh (food stamps) will end.

SSI and SSP benefits will NOT be reduced or eliminated as a result of ending cash-out.

This change means that an SSI recipient may receive CalFresh AND SSI/SSP benefits.

### Summary of Changes When Cash-Out Ends in Summer 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newly Eligible for CalFresh</th>
<th>Still Eligible for CalFresh and/or State Funded Nutrition Benefits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Most SSI recipients, individuals and SSI couples, will be newly eligible for CalFresh in summer 2019.</td>
<td>Some SSI recipients will be living in a household where other members are already receiving CalFresh. At their next reporting deadline, these households will be asked to provide information about any SSI recipients – and then their CalFresh amount should be automatically recalculated.</td>
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<td>They will need to apply over the phone, in person, or online. If approved, they will get an EBT card and the CalFresh benefit will be loaded onto it each month. The <strong>average CalFresh benefit</strong> for a household of 1 is $130 a month. Benefits will vary based on household circumstances.</td>
<td>For some households, adding the SSI recipient and their income may <strong>increase the CalFresh benefit</strong>. For other households, adding the SSI recipient and their income will lead to a <strong>partial or total loss of their CalFresh benefit</strong>. These households will be eligible to receive a state-funded nutrition benefit, either the <strong>Supplemental Nutrition Benefit</strong> (partial loss) or the <strong>Transitional Nutrition Benefit</strong> (total loss), which will help offset the loss of CalFresh.</td>
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[lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3729](lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3729)

Get more information from the Californians for SSI coalition.

@CA4SSI  •  Californians for SSI  •  ca4ssi.org
CalFresh Information for SSI Social Service Providers

Starting in Summer 2019, people will be able to receive CalFresh benefits and SSI benefits at the same time. This presents a tremendous opportunity to increase food security for very low-income seniors and people with disabilities. Successfully implementing this policy change next summer will require a collaborative effort to educate and enroll SSI recipients in CalFresh.

Right now, CalFresh provides nearly four million Californians—half of them children—an average of $130 a month on a debit (EBT) card to purchase food at grocery stores and farmers’ markets. The change in summer 2019 will provide CalFresh benefits for the first time to a significant number of seniors and people with disabilities who receive SSI.

Over 1.2 million low income Californians receive very modest SSI grants to help meet basic needs. More than half are seniors, about 1 in 10 are children with disabilities, and the rest are adults with disabilities. Everyone who receives SSI is also enrolled in Medi-Cal. One third also receive In-Home Supportive Services to help them remain safely in their home.

When exactly will this change go into effect?

The change will go into effect starting June 1, 2019, with applications being accepted starting May 1.

Will SSI benefits be reduced as a result of ending cash-out?

No, SSI benefits will NOT be reduced as a result of ending cash-out. The change simply means that someone can receive both CalFresh benefits and SSI benefits at the same time.

Will CalFresh benefits be counted as income when determining the SSI/SSP benefit?

No, CalFresh benefits will not count as income or resources for SSI purposes.

Should people who previously declined SSI in order to receive CalFresh apply for SSI?

Yes! These individuals should apply for SSI after the change goes into effect on June 1, 2019.

As a provider, what should I be doing now?

Please do not encourage SSI recipients to apply for CalFresh before May 1, as they will not be eligible. Think through how the SSI recipients you work with will experience this change and what processes need to be in place to educate and enroll SSI recipients in summer 2019. Talk with other community based organizations and your County about how enrollment into CalFresh of large numbers of SSI recipients will be handled.

More questions?

The California Department of Social Services—the state agency that administers the CalFresh program—has set up a webpage on implementation of this change. You can also get more information from the Californians for SSI coalition.
CA4SSI Statewide Organizational Endorsers

AARP, ACLU California, AllCare Alliance, The ARC CA, California Association of Food Banks, California Alliance for Retired Americans, California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS, California Church IMPACT, California Council of the Blind, California Emergency Foodlink, California Food Policy Advocates, California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, California IHSS Consumer Alliance, California Partnership, California Senior Legislature, Californians for Disability Rights, CLUE: Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, Community Services Unlimited Inc., County Welfare Directors Association of CA, Courage Campaign, Disability Rights California, Educate Advocate, Food Chain Workers Alliance, Housing California, IHSS Consumers Union, Insight Center, Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California, Justice in Aging, Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California, Magnolia Women’s Recovery Center, Meals on Wheels California, National Association of Social Workers/CA Chapter, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Produce Good, Redwood Empire Food Bank, Resources for Independent Living, SEIU, Service Center for Independent Life, UDW/AFSCME Local 3930, Western Center on Law and Poverty

Bay Area


Central Valley

Community Action Partnership of Kern County, Community Food Bank, Disability Resource Agency for Independent Living, FoodLink for Tulare County, Kern County Independent Living Center, Second Harvest Food Bank of San Joaquin & Stanislaus Counties
CA4SSI is a statewide coalition of over 200 organizations across the aging, disability rights, housing and homeless, anti-hunger and anti-poverty sectors. CA4SSI seeks to ensure that blind, aged and people living with disabilities living on SSI/SSP obtain adequate support to lead their lives with dignity.