

CalFresh Program Changes

What CalFresh Participants Need to Know

House of Representatives (H.R.) 1, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, was signed into law on July 4, 2025. H.R. 1 makes significant changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), locally known as the CalFresh Program.



These changes include:

- More CalFresh recipients will need to work to keep their benefits;
- Many lawfully present immigrants will no longer qualify for CalFresh;
- There will be changes to which CalFresh households will be eligible to receive the State Utility Assistance Subsidy to receive Standard Utility Allowance deduction.

These changes will be implemented at different times, upon policy release from the California Department of Social Services and System automation. Impacted households may experience a reduction or termination of benefits.

More information on these changes is provided below.

Changes to Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Work Requirements

Upon implementation of this policy, an ABAWD will be defined as an individual between the ages of **18-64**, who is able to work and who is not parent or guardian of a dependent child **under the age of 14** in their CalFresh household. ABAWDs are limited to receiving CalFresh benefits for only **three full months** in a designated 36 months (three years) period. ABAWDs are required to meet work requirements of 80 hours per month or complete Workfare for their assigned monthly hours to continue receiving CalFresh.

Who is Exempt from ABAWD Work Requirements:

An individual who is:

- ❑ Under 18 or over 64 years of age;
- ❑ Parent or guardian of a dependent child under age 14 who is part of your household;
- ❑ Pregnant;
- ❑ Living with a physical or mental disability that stops you from working;
- ❑ Caring for a dependent child under age six (6) or responsible for the care of a incapacitated person (the child or the incapacitated person does not have to be a CalFresh household member or living in the home);
- ❑ Applying for or getting unemployment insurance benefits;
- ❑ Participating in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program;
- ❑ Enrolled in a school, training program, or institution of higher education on at least a half-time basis (students enrolled at least half time in an institution of higher education must meet student eligibility requirements).
- ❑ Applying for or getting temporary or permanent public or private disability benefits or Veterans' benefits;
- ❑ Living with a situation that prevents you from working at least 20 hours per week or a total of 80 hours or more per month, such as a victim of domestic violence, or having a substance use disorder.
- ❑ Participating in an Office of Refugee Resettlement training program at least half time.
- ❑ An individual who is an Indian, Urban Indian, California Indian, or other Indian who is eligible for Indian health Services.

Changes to Eligibility Requirements for certain Non-Citizens

Upon implementation of this policy, certain non-citizens, such as asylees, refugees, parolees, battered noncitizens, and trafficking victims will no longer be eligible to receive CalFresh benefits.

KEY INFORMATION:

Despite not being eligible, the financial resources of ineligible noncitizens in the CalFresh household will continue to be included in determining CalFresh eligibility and benefit determination.

Changes to Issuance of State Utility Assistance Subsidy (SUAS) to allow Standard Utility Allowance Deduction

Beginning November 1, 2025, the State will implement a change in who will receive the State Utility Assistance Subsidy (SUAS) in order to receive the Standard Utility Allowance. This change may reduce or terminate some households' CalFresh benefits.

Only CalFresh households that include an elderly (60 years or older) or disabled member and are not paying for heating or cooling utility expenses separate from their shelter expense, will qualify for the State Utility Assistance Subsidy (SUAS) payment, which qualifies households for the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), if the household meets other eligibility criteria.

CalFresh households that do not include an elderly and/or disabled family member will receive SUA deduction if they have heating or cooling expenses separate from their shelter expense. Therefore, CalFresh eligibility for these households may be terminated or benefits reduced upon completion of their renewal. To remain eligible to the SUA deduction, households must report if they are paying for heating or cooling utility expenses separate from their rent/mortgage.

For new households, this change will take effect at application beginning November 1, 2025. For existing households, this change will take effect at the next renewal.

KEY INFORMATION:

If the CalFresh household does not include an elderly and/or disabled member, benefits may be reduced or discontinued if the household was receiving the SUAS payment/SUA allowance.

What Can Customers Do:

- Keep contact information updated to receive important notices.
- Make sure to report if you are paying for heating or cooling utility expenses separate from your shelter expense.

Customers May Get More Information By:

- Visiting our website and following our social media channels for updates;
- Calling the Customer Service Center at (866) 613-3777; or
- Visiting a local Department of Public Social Services office.