



CalFresh 101: College Student Eligibility

Presenters

Alexis Fernández, CDSS CalFresh and Nutrition Branch
Cassie Wagner, CDSS CalFresh Policy

Agenda

- CalFresh 101
- CalFresh and higher education students
 - Importance
 - History
 - The student eligibility rule
 - Data
- Outreach materials



About CDSS

- **Our Mission:**

The mission of the California Department of Social Services is to serve, aid, and protect needy and vulnerable children and adults in ways that strengthen and preserve families, encourage personal responsibility, and foster independence.

- **Our Social Impact Goal:**

Long lasting solutions that support California residents by successfully removing obstacles to opportunity.

College Students and Food Insecurity

- In 2016, 39% of college students were from households with incomes at or below the federal poverty line.
- 71% of all college students have at least 1 characteristic of a “nontraditional student. (Financially independent from parents, dependent children, single parents, etc.)
- Food insecurity affects 20% to 50% of college students nation wide which is considerably higher than the 12% rate of the US population.

Why CalFresh?

- Food insecurity is rising amongst college students due to rising expenses and tuition costs.
- There are strong correlations between health and education. Reducing food insecurity amongst college students can positively impact educational outcomes and lifetime health.
- CalFresh enrollment is associated with higher retention rates amongst first and second year college students
- Scale, Scope and Reach



CalFresh 101

- What is CalFresh?
- Who administers CalFresh?
- Who funds CalFresh?
- How many individuals are served by CalFresh?



CalFresh 101: General Eligibility

The amount of CalFresh benefits a household gets depends on how many people are in the household, monthly gross income and, after taking allowable deductions, monthly net income.

- **CalFresh Household:** people who purchase and prepare food together.
- **Gross Income:** all non-excludable income from any source, including earned and unearned income. For most households, monthly gross income must be at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- **Deductions:** households can deduct certain expenses from their gross income to determine their net income.
- **Net Income:** monthly income after deductions are taken into account. For all households, monthly net income must be at or below 100% of FPL.

General Eligibility Continued

Income Limits:

- **How to Apply:**
 - Click: GetCalFresh.org
 - Call: 1-877-847-3663 (FOOD)
 - Come in: Find your local County Office
- **Maximum Allotment:**

FFY 2018 Maximum Allotment by Household Size:								+Each Additional Person
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
\$192	\$352	\$504	\$640	\$760	\$913	\$1,009	\$1,153	\$144

Income Guidelines October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$2,082
2	\$2,820
3	\$3,556
4	\$4,292
5	\$5,030
6	\$5,766
7	\$6,502
8	\$7,240
*Add this amount for each additional member	+ \$738

SNAP Student Eligibility Rule

Students are ineligible for CalFresh UNLESS they meet at least one exemption listed in 7 CFR section 273.5(b) on the date of the application or recertification interview.

History of SNAP and Students

- Federal Background
- State Background
 - CalFresh Policy Guidance
 - CalFresh Outreach Network

CalFresh Student Definition

- A student is defined as any person who is age 18-49;
- Physically and mentally fit for employment; and
- Enrolled at least half-time, as defined by the institution of higher education

Students Not Subject to the Rule

If a student meets any of the following criteria, they are not subject to the student eligibility rule:

- 17 years of age or younger, or 50 years of age or older
- Enrolled less than half time, as defined by the institution of higher education
- Not expected to be enrolled next term
- A person with a disability
- Unable to work because of a physical or mental issue

Exemptions To the Rule

- Employed and paid to work 20 hours a week/80 hours per month
- Approved for Work Study
- A parent of a child under age 12
- Attending school as part of an employment & training program
- Participating in a program to increase employability
- In receipt of a TANF-funded benefit

Students and Work

- Employed and paid for an average of 20 hours per week or a total of 80 hours per month
- A change in student work hours is not a mandatory mid-period report

Approved for Work Study

- Approved for work study for the current school term, as defined by the institution, and anticipates working during the term
- Current acceptable verification- work study award letter from the financial aid department
- SB 173 (2019) - create a standardized verification work study form

Caring for a Child

- Parental control for a child under age 6
- Parental control for a child under age 12 without adequate child care
- Single parent responsible for child under age 12

Attending School as Part of an Employment & Training Program

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funded programs
- CalFresh Employment and Training (CalFresh E&T) Program
- Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program under Title IV of the Social Security Act
- Programs under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974

Attending School and Participating in a Program to Increase Employability

- Vocational programs
- State funded programs that increase employability
- State funded programs that increase employability for current and former foster youth
- Local Programs that increase employability

State Funded Programs that Increase Employability: Approved Programs

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- College Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) & Student Academic Services (SAS)
- Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education Program (CARE)
- McNair Scholars
- Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Program (MESA)
- Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program (URM)

Resource: ACL 17-05

State Funded Programs that Increase Employability for Current and Former Foster Youth

- Guardian Scholars
- Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI)
- Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES)
- Chafee Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)
- Extended Foster Care (AB12/AB 212)

Resource: ACL 17-05

Local Programs that Increase Employability

- State-funded programs with a local name
- Local programs that are locally funded
 - Must offer the equivalent of a CalFresh E&T Program component
 - Direct link to employment
 - Prompt path to employment

Receipt of a TANF-funded Benefit

- CalWORKs
- Tribal TANF
- ACL 19-32 (clarification on Cal Grants)
 - TANF-funded Cal Grants A or B
- Cal Grant and California Community Colleges
 - No Tuition
 - BA degree pilot program

Verification for TANF-funded Cal Grant Recipients



CALIFORNIA STUDENT AID COMMISSION
LUPITA CORTEZ ALCALÁ, Executive Director

• Name	Date	04/02/2018
• Address	CSAC ID Number	XXXXXXXXXX
• City, State CA		

The California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) has confirmed that you received a Cal Grant award to help cover your college expenses. Based on your Cal Grant eligibility, and eligibility requirements specified by the California Department of Social Services, you may be eligible for CalFresh benefits.

CalFresh can help you cover your food expenses while you are in college. We encourage you to apply to receive this valuable benefit that could help make your college expenses more affordable.

Take advantage of CalFresh benefits, which can supplement your budget to help pay for groceries.

- To apply for benefits, go to the CalFresh website found online at: www.benefitscal.com
- To learn more about CalFresh, including income and eligibility requirements, go to the Department of Social Services web page found online at: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/CDSS-Programs/CalFresh/Eligibility-and-Issuance-Requirements>

Please retain this letter as verification of your eligibility for, and receipt of, a Cal Grant payment and for CalFresh eligibility purposes.

You have received a letter notification because you may not have an email address, or valid email address, on your WebGrants4Students account. Please log into your account at <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov/logon.asp> to correct your email address.

If you have questions about CalFresh, call 1-877-847-3663 (FOOD). If you have questions about your Cal Grant award, please contact Student Support at 1-888-224-7268, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 pm.

Attention County Social Services Provider: This letter confirms that the student listed above received a Cal Grant A or B payment for the 2017-18 academic year that included funds from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, known as CalWORKs in California.

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Cal Grant information for students who are 18 years of age or older, or who have attended a postsecondary institution, will only be released to parents or guardians with written authorization from the student.

Website: www.csac.ca.gov

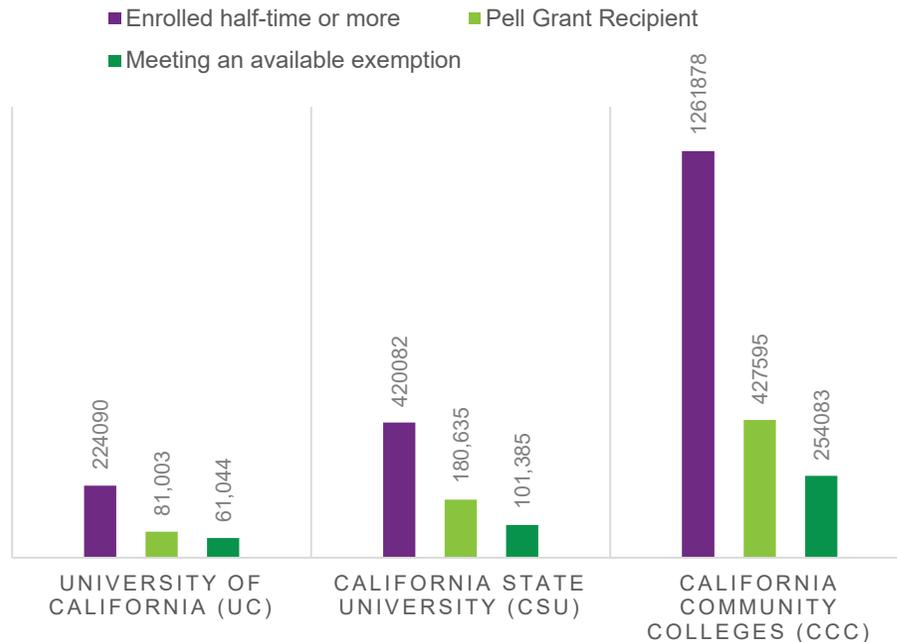


Important Note: ABAWD Time Limit

- Unless they have children, part time students are considered “able bodies adults without dependents (ABAWD)”
 - ABAWDs are eligible for 3 months of SNAP benefits every 36 months unless they are working 20 hours a week or engaged in a SNAP Employment and Training program

CalFresh Student Participation Data

STUDENTS MEETING AN EXEMPTION



Total number of students receiving CalFresh statewide (monthly average) = **127,360**

Total number of students who are likely eligible for CalFresh in the public post-secondary sector (annual count) = **416,512**

This leaves at least **289,152** students who may be eligible for CalFresh but are not participating.

Where can I find the College Student Toolkit?

Visit the [CalFresh Outreach](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh-outreach/logos-and-materials) webpage

<https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh-outreach/logos-and-materials>

For questions about the toolkit, please contact

CalFreshAccess@dss.ca.gov



Question & Answer Session

Contact:

Cassie Wagner

Cassandra.Wagner@dss.ca.gov

(916) 654-0623