

APPLICATION FOR CALFRESH , CASH AID , AND/OR MEDI-CAL/HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

If you have a disability or need help with this application, let the County Welfare Department (County) know and someone will help you.

If you prefer to speak, read, or write in a language other than English the County will get someone to help you at no cost to you.

How do I apply?

Use this application if you are for applying for food assistance (CalFresh), cash aid (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids or Refugee Cash Assistance), Medi-Cal and/or other health care programs. If you want to apply for CalFresh only, you can ask the County for the CalFresh only application. CalFresh is a food assistance program to help you with the cost of buying food for your household. If you want to apply for health care only, you can ask the county for a health care only application. Health care includes: low-cost insurance for Medi-Cal; affordable private health insurance; or a tax credit that can help you pay your premiums for health coverage. Do not use this application if you are applying for only health care.

You can also apply for these programs online by going to <http://www.benefitscal.org/>.

- Fill out the whole application form, if you can. You must at least give the County your name, address, and signature (question 1 on page 1 of the application) to begin the application process for CalFresh. For cash aid you must fill out questions 1 through 5 on pages 1 and 2 of the application and sign it to begin the application process.
- Each program has an indicator (shown top of page) showing what questions pertain to that program. For cash aid, it is a dollar sign; for CalFresh, it is a shopping cart, and for health coverage, it is an ambulance. If you are not applying for a program, for example, cash aid, you don't need to answer questions marked only with a dollar sign.
- Give the application to the County in person, by mail, by fax or online.
- The day the County receives your signed application starts the time to give you an answer on whether you can get benefits. If you are in an institution, this time starts from the day you leave.

What do I do next?

- Read about your rights and your responsibilities (Program Rules pages) before you sign the application.
- You must have an interview with the County to discuss your application. If you have a disability, other arrangements can be made.
- If you did not fill out all of the application, you can finish it during your interview.
- You will need to give proof of your income, expenses, and other circumstances to see if you are eligible.

How long will it take?

It may take up to 30 days to process your application for CalFresh. For cash aid and Medi-Cal it may take up to 45 days. Ask the County how to get your benefits or health care right away if you have an emergency.

You may be able to get CalFresh benefits within 3 calendar days if:

- Your household's monthly gross income (income before deductions) is less than \$150 and your cash on hand or in checking or savings accounts is not more than \$100; or
- Your household's housing costs (rent/mortgage and utilities) are more than your monthly gross income and money in checking or savings; or
- You are a migrant or seasonal farmworker household with less than \$100 in checking or savings and 1) your income stopped, or 2) your income has started but you do not expect to get more than \$25 in the next 10 days.

For cash aid, you may get immediate assistance if:

- You are homeless or have an eviction notice or notice to pay rent or move; or
- Your food will run out within three days;
- Your utilities have been or will be shut off;

- You don't have sufficient clothing or diapers;
- Other kinds of emergencies important to health and safety

To help the County see if you can get benefits faster, please complete all questions and give the County proof of your identity (if you have it) with the application.

The County will send you a letter to let you know if your household is approved or denied for the benefits you applied for.

What do I need for my interview?

To avoid delays, bring proof of the following items with you to your interview. Keep your interview even if you do not have the proof. The County may be able to help if you need help getting proof. During the interview, the County will go over the information on the application and will ask you questions to see if you can get benefits and the amount of benefits you can get.

Proof Needed to Get Benefits

- Identification (Driver's License, State ID card, passport).
- Birth certificates for everyone applying for cash aid.
- Where you live (a rental agreement, current bill with your address listed).
- Social Security Numbers for everyone applying for aid (see note below about certain noncitizens).
- Money in the bank for all the people in your household (recent bank statements).
- Earned income of everyone in your household for the past 30 days (recent pay stubs, a work statement from an employer). NOTE: If self-employed, income and expenses or tax records.
- Unearned income (Unemployment benefits, SSI, Social Security, Veteran's benefits, child support, worker's compensation, school grants or loans, rental income, etc.).
- Lawful immigration status ONLY for legal noncitizens applying for benefits (an Alien Registration Card, visa)
NOTE: Certain noncitizens applying for immigration status based on domestic violence, crime prosecution or trafficking may not need this proof. They also may not need a social security number.

Proof Needed to Get More CalFresh Benefits

- Housing costs (rent receipts, mortgage bills, property tax, insurance).
- Phone and utility costs.
- Medical expenses for anyone in your household who is elderly (60 and older) or disabled.
- Child and adult care costs due to someone working, looking for work, attending training or school, or participating in a required work activity.
- Child support paid by a person in your household.

Additional Proof Needed for Health Coverage

- Information about any job related health insurance available to your family.
- Policy numbers for any current health insurance.

Additional Proof Needed for Cash Aid

- Proof of immunizations for children six years of age or younger.
- Vehicle registration for vehicles owned by you or someone you are applying for.

What if I am homeless?

Please let the County know right away if you are homeless so they can help you figure out an address to use to accept your application and get notices from the County regarding your case. For CalFresh and cash aid, homeless means you are:

- A. Staying in a supervised shelter, halfway house, or similar place.
- B. Staying at the home of another person or family for no more than 90 days straight.

C. Sleeping in a place not designed for, or normally used, as a place to sleep (a hallway, a bus station, a lobby, or similar places).