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# General Resources

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**A note on the appropriate use of these materials:** This document provides a broad overview of the general eligibility criteria for several welfare programs. The programs presented are complex, and this document offers a simplified description of both eligibility criteria and the benefit calculations. It reflects the best available information at the time of writing. If a worker appears to be eligible for some of these programs according to the criteria presented in this document, their eligibility must be confirmed by program officials. The program applications (online or at a local enrollment office) are the only precise determinant of program eligibility.

## Application Assistance

- The general website for applying for welfare programs in California is:  
<http://www.benefitscal.org>
- Interested individuals can also apply in person at their local county welfare offices:  
<http://www.calfresh.ca.gov/PG839.htm>
- To apply for WIC, interested individuals must apply in person at their local WIC clinic, which can be located on their website:  
<https://m.wic.ca.gov/WICMobile/Clinics/ClinicSearch.aspx>
- To locate the nearest planned parenthood, search online at:  
<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center>
- To locate your local food bank, see the list of California food banks at:  
<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/efap/PG1910.htm>
- For children receiving free school lunch and breakfast, an annually updated list of summer meal service sites can be found at:  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sh/sn/summersites.asp>
- To search for available low income and subsidized housing options, visit:  
<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/california/renting> or  
<http://www.lowincomehousing.us/CA.html>

## Poverty Guidelines

- Because program eligibility for most welfare programs is based off of the annually updated U.S. Poverty Guidelines, to update the Program Income Eligibility Guidelines you will need to update these incomes annually based on the poverty guidelines:  
<https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

## Program Eligibility and Legal Status

This table documents the programs that workers are potentially eligible for given their legal status, whether or not they have children, and their children's legal status. For whichever category the worker falls into, the **X** denotes the programs that the worker or the worker's family members are potentially eligible for. To fully determine eligibility, the next step is examining whether the worker meets the family income thresholds for these programs. (See Program Eligibility Guidelines Sheet)

| Worker Legal Status<br>(Children Living in California?)                                     | Full-scope<br>Medi-Cal | Partial-scope<br>Medi-Cal | Family<br>PACT | CalFresh/<br>SNAP | WIC | Free School<br>Lunch &<br>Breakfast | Emergency<br>Food<br>Assistance | Commodity<br>Supplemental<br>Food Program | CalWorks/<br>TANF | Low Income<br>Housing |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Citizens or Green Card Holders <sup>1</sup><br>(No Children)                                | X                      |                           | X              | X                 |     |                                     | X                               | X                                         |                   | X                     |
| Citizens or Green Card Holders <sup>1</sup><br>(Living with Children)                       | X                      |                           | X              | X                 | X   | X                                   | X                               | X                                         | X                 | X                     |
| Undocumented or Work Permit Holders<br>(No Children)                                        |                        | X                         | X              |                   | X   |                                     | X                               | X                                         |                   |                       |
| Undocumented or Work Permit Holders<br>(Living with Lawfully Present <sup>2</sup> Children) | X                      | X                         | X              | X                 | X   | X                                   | X                               | X                                         | X                 | X                     |
| Undocumented or Work Permit Holders<br>(Living with Undocumented Children)                  | X                      | X                         | X              |                   | X   | X                                   | X                               | X                                         |                   |                       |

<sup>1</sup>In addition to having a Green Card, the worker must (usually) also have either: (1) lived in the country for at least 5 years; (2) be receiving disability-related assistance; or (3) be under 18 years old.

<sup>2</sup>Lawfully Present Children include both U.S. citizens and Green Card Holders.

## Program Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2016 (Monthly Income)

|                                                                          | Program Income Eligibility Thresholds | Medi-Cal*                                  |                       |                                  |                                      |                                                                           |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|----------------------------|----------|---------------|----------|----------|--|
|                                                                          |                                       | General Income Threshold (≤ 138%)          |                       |                                  |                                      | Pregnant Women (≤ 213%)                                                   |         |         |          | Children under 19 (≤ 266%) |          | MCAP (≤ 322%) |          |          |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Family PACT (≤ 200%)                       |                       |                                  |                                      |                                                                           |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | CalFresh/SNAP/Food Stamps*                 |                       |                                  |                                      |                                                                           |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Net Income Test                            |                       | Gross Income Test                |                                      |                                                                           |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | General Threshold (≤100%)                  |                       | General Income Threshold (≤130%) |                                      | Elderly or Disabled-- Modified Categorically Eligible Households (≤ 200%) |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (≤185%) |                       |                                  |                                      |                                                                           |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Free School Lunch/Breakfast                |                       |                                  |                                      |                                                                           |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Free Meals (≤ 130%)                        |                       |                                  | Reduced Price Meals (>130% to ≤185%) |                                                                           |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Emergency Food Assistance Program (≤150%)  |                       |                                  |                                      |                                                                           |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
| Commodity Supplemental Food Program-<br>For elderly with age ≥60 (≤130%) |                                       |                                            |                       |                                  |                                      |                                                                           |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
| CalWorks/TANF* <sup>1</sup>                                              |                                       |                                            |                       |                                  |                                      |                                                                           |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Region 2 <sup>2</sup>                      | Region 1 <sup>2</sup> |                                  |                                      |                                                                           |         |         |          |                            |          |               |          |          |  |
| % of Poverty Line                                                        |                                       | N/A                                        | N/A                   | 100%                             | 130%                                 | 138%                                                                      | 150%    | 165%    | 185%     | 200%                       | 213%     | 250%          | 266%     | 322%     |  |
| Household Size                                                           | 1                                     | \$587                                      | \$619                 | \$990                            | \$1,287                              | \$1,367                                                                   | \$1,485 | \$1,634 | \$1,832  | \$1,980                    | \$2,109  | \$2,475       | \$2,634  | \$3,188  |  |
|                                                                          | 2                                     | \$964                                      | \$1,014               | \$1,335                          | \$1,736                              | \$1,843                                                                   | \$2,003 | \$2,203 | \$2,470  | \$2,670                    | \$2,844  | \$3,338       | \$3,552  | \$4,299  |  |
|                                                                          | 3                                     | \$1,194                                    | \$1,257               | \$1,680                          | \$2,184                              | \$2,319                                                                   | \$2,520 | \$2,772 | \$3,108  | \$3,360                    | \$3,579  | \$4,200       | \$4,469  | \$5,410  |  |
|                                                                          | 4                                     | \$1,419                                    | \$1,492               | \$2,025                          | \$2,633                              | \$2,795                                                                   | \$3,038 | \$3,342 | \$3,747  | \$4,050                    | \$4,314  | \$5,063       | \$5,387  | \$6,521  |  |
|                                                                          | 5                                     | \$1,621                                    | \$1,703               | \$2,370                          | \$3,081                              | \$3,271                                                                   | \$3,555 | \$3,911 | \$4,385  | \$4,740                    | \$5,049  | \$5,925       | \$6,305  | \$7,632  |  |
|                                                                          | 6                                     | \$1,822                                    | \$1,915               | \$2,715                          | \$3,530                              | \$3,747                                                                   | \$4,073 | \$4,480 | \$5,023  | \$5,430                    | \$5,783  | \$6,788       | \$7,222  | \$8,743  |  |
|                                                                          | 7                                     | \$1,997                                    | \$2,105               | \$3,061                          | \$3,980                              | \$4,224                                                                   | \$4,592 | \$5,051 | \$5,663  | \$6,122                    | \$6,520  | \$7,653       | \$8,142  | \$9,856  |  |
|                                                                          | 8                                     | \$2,181                                    | \$2,291               | \$3,408                          | \$4,430                              | \$4,703                                                                   | \$5,112 | \$5,623 | \$6,304  | \$6,815                    | \$7,258  | \$8,519       | \$9,064  | \$10,973 |  |
|                                                                          | 9                                     | \$2,356                                    | \$2,485               | \$3,755                          | \$4,881                              | \$5,182                                                                   | \$5,632 | \$6,195 | \$6,946  | \$7,509                    | \$7,998  | \$9,387       | \$9,987  | \$12,090 |  |
|                                                                          | 10                                    | \$2,566                                    | \$2,698               | \$4,102                          | \$5,332                              | \$5,661                                                                   | \$6,153 | \$6,768 | \$7,588  | \$8,203                    | \$8,737  | \$10,254      | \$10,910 | \$13,207 |  |
|                                                                          | 11                                    | \$2,590                                    | \$2,722               | \$4,449                          | \$5,784                              | \$6,139                                                                   | \$6,673 | \$7,341 | \$8,230  | \$8,897                    | \$9,476  | \$11,122      | \$11,834 | \$14,325 |  |
|                                                                          | 12                                    | \$2,614                                    | \$2,746               | \$4,796                          | \$6,235                              | \$6,618                                                                   | \$7,194 | \$7,913 | \$8,872  | \$9,591                    | \$10,215 | \$11,989      | \$12,757 | \$15,442 |  |
|                                                                          | 13                                    | \$2,638                                    | \$2,770               | \$5,143                          | \$6,686                              | \$7,097                                                                   | \$7,714 | \$8,486 | \$9,514  | \$10,285                   | \$10,954 | \$12,857      | \$13,680 | \$16,559 |  |
|                                                                          | 14                                    | \$2,662                                    | \$2,794               | \$5,490                          | \$7,137                              | \$7,576                                                                   | \$8,235 | \$9,058 | \$10,156 | \$10,979                   | \$11,693 | \$13,724      | \$14,603 | \$17,677 |  |
|                                                                          | 15                                    | \$2,686                                    | \$2,818               | \$5,837                          | \$7,588                              | \$8,055                                                                   | \$8,755 | \$9,631 | \$10,798 | \$11,673                   | \$12,432 | \$14,592      | \$15,526 | \$18,794 |  |
| Each Additional:                                                         |                                       | \$24                                       | \$24                  | \$347                            | \$451                                | \$479                                                                     | \$520   | \$572   | \$642    | \$694                      | \$739    | \$867         | \$923    | \$1,117  |  |

<sup>1</sup>CalWorks/TANF uses the Minimum Basic Standards of Adequate Care to determine income eligibility. They are adjusted annually for cost of living.

<sup>2</sup>Region 1 consists of more urban counties with higher cost of living: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Orange, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Ventura. Region 2 includes the more rural counties (those not listed for region 1).

\*Denotes programs with additional citizenship eligibility criteria. Non-citizens may not be eligible.

Note: These thresholds are updated on July 1, 2017 for all programs except CalFresh and Medi-Cal, which are updated Oct. 1, 2017

## Program Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2016 (Weekly Income)

|                                                                          | Program Income Eligibility Thresholds | Medi-Cal*                                  |       |                                  |         |                                                                           |                                      |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------------|---------|---------------|--|--|--|
|                                                                          |                                       | General Income Threshold (≤ 138%)          |       |                                  |         |                                                                           | Pregnant Women (≤ 213%)              |         |         |         |         | Children under 19 (≤ 266%) |         | MCAP (≤ 322%) |  |  |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Family PACT (≤ 200%)                       |       |                                  |         |                                                                           |                                      |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | CalFresh/SNAP/Food Stamps*                 |       |                                  |         |                                                                           |                                      |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Net Income Test                            |       | Gross Income Test                |         |                                                                           |                                      |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | General Threshold (≤100%)                  |       | General Income Threshold (≤130%) |         | Elderly or Disabled-- Modified Categorically Eligible Households (≤ 200%) |                                      |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (≤185%) |       |                                  |         |                                                                           |                                      |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Free School Lunch/Breakfast                |       |                                  |         |                                                                           |                                      |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Free Meals (≤ 130%)                        |       |                                  |         |                                                                           | Reduced Price Meals (>130% to ≤185%) |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
|                                                                          |                                       | Emergency Food Assistance Program (≤150%)  |       |                                  |         |                                                                           |                                      |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
| Commodity Supplemental Food Program-<br>For elderly with age ≥60 (≤130%) |                                       |                                            |       |                                  |         |                                                                           |                                      |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
| CalWorks/TANF* <sup>1</sup>                                              |                                       |                                            |       |                                  |         |                                                                           |                                      |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | Region 2 <sup>2</sup>                 | Region 1 <sup>2</sup>                      |       |                                  |         |                                                                           |                                      |         |         |         |         |                            |         |               |  |  |  |
| % of Poverty Line                                                        | N/A                                   | N/A                                        | 100%  | 130%                             | 138%    | 150%                                                                      | 165%                                 | 185%    | 200%    | 213%    | 250%    | 266%                       | 322%    |               |  |  |  |
| Household Size                                                           | 1                                     | \$135                                      | \$143 | \$228                            | \$297   | \$316                                                                     | \$343                                | \$377   | \$423   | \$457   | \$487   | \$572                      | \$608   | \$736         |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 2                                     | \$222                                      | \$234 | \$308                            | \$401   | \$426                                                                     | \$463                                | \$509   | \$570   | \$617   | \$657   | \$771                      | \$820   | \$993         |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 3                                     | \$276                                      | \$290 | \$388                            | \$504   | \$536                                                                     | \$582                                | \$640   | \$718   | \$776   | \$826   | \$970                      | \$1,032 | \$1,249       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 4                                     | \$327                                      | \$344 | \$467                            | \$608   | \$645                                                                     | \$701                                | \$772   | \$865   | \$935   | \$996   | \$1,169                    | \$1,244 | \$1,505       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 5                                     | \$374                                      | \$393 | \$547                            | \$711   | \$755                                                                     | \$821                                | \$903   | \$1,012 | \$1,094 | \$1,165 | \$1,368                    | \$1,455 | \$1,762       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 6                                     | \$420                                      | \$442 | \$627                            | \$815   | \$865                                                                     | \$940                                | \$1,034 | \$1,160 | \$1,254 | \$1,335 | \$1,567                    | \$1,667 | \$2,018       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 7                                     | \$461                                      | \$486 | \$706                            | \$919   | \$975                                                                     | \$1,060                              | \$1,166 | \$1,307 | \$1,413 | \$1,505 | \$1,766                    | \$1,879 | \$2,275       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 8                                     | \$503                                      | \$529 | \$786                            | \$1,023 | \$1,086                                                                   | \$1,180                              | \$1,298 | \$1,455 | \$1,573 | \$1,675 | \$1,966                    | \$2,092 | \$2,533       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 9                                     | \$544                                      | \$573 | \$866                            | \$1,127 | \$1,196                                                                   | \$1,300                              | \$1,430 | \$1,603 | \$1,733 | \$1,846 | \$2,166                    | \$2,305 | \$2,790       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 10                                    | \$592                                      | \$623 | \$946                            | \$1,231 | \$1,306                                                                   | \$1,420                              | \$1,562 | \$1,751 | \$1,893 | \$2,016 | \$2,366                    | \$2,518 | \$3,048       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 11                                    | \$598                                      | \$628 | \$1,026                          | \$1,335 | \$1,417                                                                   | \$1,540                              | \$1,694 | \$1,899 | \$2,053 | \$2,187 | \$2,566                    | \$2,731 | \$3,305       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 12                                    | \$603                                      | \$634 | \$1,106                          | \$1,439 | \$1,527                                                                   | \$1,660                              | \$1,826 | \$2,047 | \$2,213 | \$2,357 | \$2,766                    | \$2,943 | \$3,563       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 13                                    | \$609                                      | \$639 | \$1,186                          | \$1,543 | \$1,638                                                                   | \$1,780                              | \$1,958 | \$2,195 | \$2,373 | \$2,527 | \$2,966                    | \$3,156 | \$3,821       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 14                                    | \$614                                      | \$645 | \$1,266                          | \$1,647 | \$1,748                                                                   | \$1,900                              | \$2,090 | \$2,343 | \$2,533 | \$2,698 | \$3,166                    | \$3,369 | \$4,078       |  |  |  |
|                                                                          | 15                                    | \$620                                      | \$650 | \$1,346                          | \$1,751 | \$1,858                                                                   | \$2,020                              | \$2,222 | \$2,491 | \$2,693 | \$2,868 | \$3,366                    | \$3,582 | \$4,336       |  |  |  |
| Each Additional:                                                         | \$6                                   | \$6                                        | \$80  | \$104                            | \$111   | \$120                                                                     | \$132                                | \$148   | \$160   | \$171   | \$200   | \$213                      | \$258   |               |  |  |  |

<sup>1</sup>CalWorks/TANF uses the Minimum Basic Standards of Adequate Care to determine income eligibility. They are adjusted annually for cost of living.

<sup>2</sup>Region 1 consists of more urban counties with higher cost of living: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Orange, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Ventura. Region 2 includes the more rural counties (those not listed for region 1).

\*Denotes programs with additional citizenship eligibility criteria. Non-citizens may not be eligible.

Note: These thresholds are updated on July 1, 2017 for all programs except CalFresh and Medi-Cal, which are updated Oct. 1, 2017

## Program Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2016 (Annual Income)

| Program Income Eligibility Thresholds | General Income Threshold (≤ 138%)                                        |          |                                  |          | Medi-Cal*                                                                 |          |           |           |           | Children under 19 (≤ 266%) |           | MCAP (≤ 322%) |           |           |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                       | Family PACT (≤ 200%)                                                     |          |                                  |          |                                                                           |          |           |           |           |                            |           |               |           |           |
|                                       | CalFresh/SNAP/Food Stamps*                                               |          |                                  |          |                                                                           |          |           |           |           |                            |           |               |           |           |
|                                       | Net Income Test                                                          |          | Gross Income Test                |          |                                                                           |          |           |           |           |                            |           |               |           |           |
|                                       | General Threshold (≤100%)                                                |          | General Income Threshold (≤130%) |          | Elderly or Disabled-- Modified Categorically Eligible Households (≤ 200%) |          |           |           |           |                            |           |               |           |           |
|                                       | Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (≤185%)                               |          |                                  |          |                                                                           |          |           |           |           |                            |           |               |           |           |
|                                       | Free School Lunch/Breakfast                                              |          |                                  |          |                                                                           |          |           |           |           |                            |           |               |           |           |
|                                       | Free Meals (≤ 130%)                                                      |          |                                  |          | Reduced Price Meals (>130% to ≤185%)                                      |          |           |           |           |                            |           |               |           |           |
|                                       | Emergency Food Assistance Program (≤150%)                                |          |                                  |          |                                                                           |          |           |           |           |                            |           |               |           |           |
|                                       | Commodity Supplemental Food Program-<br>For elderly with age ≥60 (≤130%) |          |                                  |          |                                                                           |          |           |           |           |                            |           |               |           |           |
| CalWorks/TANF* <sup>1</sup>           |                                                                          |          |                                  |          |                                                                           |          |           |           |           |                            |           |               |           |           |
| Region 2 <sup>2</sup>                 | Region 1 <sup>2</sup>                                                    |          |                                  |          |                                                                           |          |           |           |           |                            |           |               |           |           |
| % of Poverty Line                     | N/A                                                                      | N/A      | 100%                             | 130%     | 138%                                                                      | 150%     | 165%      | 185%      | 200%      | 213%                       | 250%      | 266%          | 322%      |           |
| Household Size                        | 1                                                                        | \$7,044  | \$7,428                          | \$11,880 | \$15,444                                                                  | \$16,395 | \$17,820  | \$19,602  | \$21,978  | \$23,760                   | \$25,305  | \$29,700      | \$31,601  | \$38,254  |
|                                       | 2                                                                        | \$11,568 | \$12,168                         | \$16,020 | \$20,826                                                                  | \$22,108 | \$24,030  | \$26,433  | \$29,637  | \$32,040                   | \$34,123  | \$40,050      | \$42,614  | \$51,585  |
|                                       | 3                                                                        | \$14,328 | \$15,084                         | \$20,160 | \$26,208                                                                  | \$27,821 | \$30,240  | \$33,264  | \$37,296  | \$40,320                   | \$42,941  | \$50,400      | \$53,626  | \$64,916  |
|                                       | 4                                                                        | \$17,028 | \$17,904                         | \$24,300 | \$31,590                                                                  | \$33,534 | \$36,450  | \$40,095  | \$44,955  | \$48,600                   | \$51,759  | \$60,750      | \$64,638  | \$78,246  |
|                                       | 5                                                                        | \$19,452 | \$20,436                         | \$28,440 | \$36,972                                                                  | \$39,248 | \$42,660  | \$46,926  | \$52,614  | \$56,880                   | \$60,578  | \$71,100      | \$75,651  | \$91,577  |
|                                       | 6                                                                        | \$21,864 | \$22,980                         | \$32,580 | \$42,354                                                                  | \$44,961 | \$48,870  | \$53,757  | \$60,273  | \$65,160                   | \$69,396  | \$81,450      | \$86,663  | \$104,908 |
|                                       | 7                                                                        | \$23,964 | \$25,260                         | \$36,730 | \$47,749                                                                  | \$50,688 | \$55,095  | \$60,605  | \$67,951  | \$73,460                   | \$78,235  | \$91,825      | \$97,702  | \$118,271 |
|                                       | 8                                                                        | \$26,172 | \$27,492                         | \$40,890 | \$53,157                                                                  | \$56,429 | \$61,335  | \$67,469  | \$75,647  | \$81,780                   | \$87,096  | \$102,225     | \$108,768 | \$131,666 |
|                                       | 9                                                                        | \$28,272 | \$29,820                         | \$45,050 | \$58,565                                                                  | \$62,169 | \$67,575  | \$74,333  | \$83,343  | \$90,100                   | \$95,957  | \$112,625     | \$119,833 | \$145,061 |
|                                       | 10                                                                       | \$30,792 | \$32,376                         | \$49,210 | \$63,973                                                                  | \$67,910 | \$73,815  | \$81,197  | \$91,039  | \$98,420                   | \$104,818 | \$123,025     | \$130,899 | \$158,457 |
|                                       | 11                                                                       | \$31,080 | \$32,664                         | \$53,370 | \$69,381                                                                  | \$73,651 | \$80,055  | \$88,061  | \$98,735  | \$106,740                  | \$113,679 | \$133,425     | \$141,965 | \$171,852 |
|                                       | 12                                                                       | \$31,368 | \$32,952                         | \$57,530 | \$74,789                                                                  | \$79,392 | \$86,295  | \$94,925  | \$106,431 | \$115,060                  | \$122,539 | \$143,825     | \$153,030 | \$185,247 |
|                                       | 13                                                                       | \$31,656 | \$33,240                         | \$61,690 | \$80,197                                                                  | \$85,133 | \$92,535  | \$101,789 | \$114,127 | \$123,380                  | \$131,400 | \$154,225     | \$164,096 | \$198,642 |
|                                       | 14                                                                       | \$31,944 | \$33,528                         | \$65,850 | \$85,605                                                                  | \$90,873 | \$98,775  | \$108,653 | \$121,823 | \$131,700                  | \$140,261 | \$164,625     | \$175,161 | \$212,037 |
|                                       | 15                                                                       | \$32,232 | \$33,816                         | \$70,010 | \$91,013                                                                  | \$96,614 | \$105,015 | \$115,517 | \$129,519 | \$140,020                  | \$149,122 | \$175,025     | \$186,227 | \$225,433 |
| Each Additional:                      | \$288                                                                    | \$288    | \$4,160                          | \$5,408  | \$5,741                                                                   | \$6,240  | \$6,864   | \$7,696   | \$8,320   | \$8,861                    | \$10,400  | \$11,066      | \$13,396  |           |

<sup>1</sup>CalWorks/TANF uses the Minimum Basic Standards of Adequate Care to determine income eligibility. They are adjusted annually for cost of living.

<sup>2</sup>Region 1 consists of more urban counties with higher cost of living: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Orange, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Ventura. Region 2 includes the more rural counties (those not listed for region 1).

\*Denotes programs with additional citizenship eligibility criteria. Non-citizens may not be eligible.

Note: These thresholds are updated on July 1, 2017 for all programs except CalFresh and Medi-Cal, which are updated Oct. 1, 2017

## Program Income Eligibility Guidelines for 2016 (Bi-weekly Income)

|                             | Program Income Eligibility Thresholds | Medi-Cal*                                                                |         |                                  |                                      |                                                                                                |         |         |         |                            |         |               |         |         |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|
|                             |                                       | General Income Threshold (≤ 138%)                                        |         |                                  |                                      | Pregnant Women (≤ 213%)                                                                        |         |         |         | Children under 19 (≤ 266%) |         | MCAP (≤ 322%) |         |         |
|                             |                                       | Family PACT (≤ 200%)                                                     |         |                                  |                                      |                                                                                                |         |         |         |                            |         |               |         |         |
|                             |                                       | CalFresh/SNAP/Food Stamps*                                               |         |                                  |                                      |                                                                                                |         |         |         |                            |         |               |         |         |
|                             |                                       | Net Income Test<br>General Threshold (≤100%)                             |         | General Income Threshold (≤130%) |                                      | Gross Income Test<br>Elderly or Disabled-- Modified Categorically Eligible Households (≤ 200%) |         |         |         |                            |         |               |         |         |
|                             |                                       | Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (≤185%)                               |         |                                  |                                      |                                                                                                |         |         |         |                            |         |               |         |         |
|                             |                                       | Free School Lunch/Breakfast                                              |         |                                  |                                      |                                                                                                |         |         |         |                            |         |               |         |         |
|                             |                                       | Free Meals (≤ 130%)                                                      |         |                                  | Reduced Price Meals (>130% to ≤185%) |                                                                                                |         |         |         |                            |         |               |         |         |
|                             |                                       | Emergency Food Assistance Program (≤150%)                                |         |                                  |                                      |                                                                                                |         |         |         |                            |         |               |         |         |
|                             |                                       | Commodity Supplemental Food Program-<br>For elderly with age ≥60 (≤130%) |         |                                  |                                      |                                                                                                |         |         |         |                            |         |               |         |         |
| CalWorks/TANF* <sup>1</sup> |                                       |                                                                          |         |                                  |                                      |                                                                                                |         |         |         |                            |         |               |         |         |
|                             | Region 2 <sup>2</sup>                 | Region 1 <sup>2</sup>                                                    |         |                                  |                                      |                                                                                                |         |         |         |                            |         |               |         |         |
| % of Poverty Line           | N/A                                   | N/A                                                                      | 100%    | 130%                             | 138%                                 | 150%                                                                                           | 165%    | 185%    | 200%    | 213%                       | 250%    | 266%          | 322%    |         |
| Household Size              | 1                                     | \$271                                                                    | \$286   | \$457                            | \$594                                | \$631                                                                                          | \$686   | \$754   | \$846   | \$914                      | \$974   | \$1,143       | \$1,216 | \$1,472 |
|                             | 2                                     | \$445                                                                    | \$468   | \$616                            | \$801                                | \$851                                                                                          | \$925   | \$1,017 | \$1,140 | \$1,233                    | \$1,313 | \$1,541       | \$1,639 | \$1,985 |
|                             | 3                                     | \$551                                                                    | \$580   | \$775                            | \$1,008                              | \$1,071                                                                                        | \$1,164 | \$1,280 | \$1,435 | \$1,551                    | \$1,652 | \$1,939       | \$2,063 | \$2,497 |
|                             | 4                                     | \$655                                                                    | \$689   | \$935                            | \$1,215                              | \$1,290                                                                                        | \$1,402 | \$1,543 | \$1,730 | \$1,870                    | \$1,991 | \$2,337       | \$2,487 | \$3,010 |
|                             | 5                                     | \$748                                                                    | \$786   | \$1,094                          | \$1,422                              | \$1,510                                                                                        | \$1,641 | \$1,805 | \$2,024 | \$2,188                    | \$2,330 | \$2,735       | \$2,910 | \$3,523 |
|                             | 6                                     | \$841                                                                    | \$884   | \$1,253                          | \$1,629                              | \$1,730                                                                                        | \$1,880 | \$2,068 | \$2,319 | \$2,507                    | \$2,670 | \$3,133       | \$3,334 | \$4,035 |
|                             | 7                                     | \$922                                                                    | \$972   | \$1,413                          | \$1,837                              | \$1,950                                                                                        | \$2,120 | \$2,331 | \$2,614 | \$2,826                    | \$3,010 | \$3,532       | \$3,758 | \$4,549 |
|                             | 8                                     | \$1,007                                                                  | \$1,057 | \$1,573                          | \$2,045                              | \$2,171                                                                                        | \$2,360 | \$2,595 | \$2,910 | \$3,146                    | \$3,350 | \$3,932       | \$4,184 | \$5,065 |
|                             | 9                                     | \$1,087                                                                  | \$1,147 | \$1,733                          | \$2,253                              | \$2,392                                                                                        | \$2,600 | \$2,859 | \$3,206 | \$3,466                    | \$3,691 | \$4,332       | \$4,609 | \$5,580 |
|                             | 10                                    | \$1,184                                                                  | \$1,245 | \$1,893                          | \$2,461                              | \$2,612                                                                                        | \$2,840 | \$3,123 | \$3,502 | \$3,786                    | \$4,032 | \$4,732       | \$5,035 | \$6,095 |
|                             | 11                                    | \$1,195                                                                  | \$1,256 | \$2,053                          | \$2,669                              | \$2,833                                                                                        | \$3,080 | \$3,387 | \$3,798 | \$4,106                    | \$4,373 | \$5,132       | \$5,461 | \$6,610 |
|                             | 12                                    | \$1,206                                                                  | \$1,267 | \$2,213                          | \$2,877                              | \$3,054                                                                                        | \$3,320 | \$3,651 | \$4,094 | \$4,426                    | \$4,714 | \$5,532       | \$5,886 | \$7,125 |
|                             | 13                                    | \$1,218                                                                  | \$1,278 | \$2,373                          | \$3,085                              | \$3,275                                                                                        | \$3,560 | \$3,915 | \$4,390 | \$4,746                    | \$5,054 | \$5,932       | \$6,312 | \$7,641 |
|                             | 14                                    | \$1,229                                                                  | \$1,290 | \$2,533                          | \$3,293                              | \$3,496                                                                                        | \$3,800 | \$4,179 | \$4,686 | \$5,066                    | \$5,395 | \$6,332       | \$6,737 | \$8,156 |
|                             | 15                                    | \$1,240                                                                  | \$1,301 | \$2,693                          | \$3,501                              | \$3,716                                                                                        | \$4,040 | \$4,443 | \$4,982 | \$5,386                    | \$5,736 | \$6,732       | \$7,163 | \$8,671 |
| Each Additional:            | \$11                                  | \$11                                                                     | \$160   | \$208                            | \$221                                | \$240                                                                                          | \$264   | \$296   | \$320   | \$341                      | \$400   | \$426         | \$516   |         |

<sup>1</sup>CalWorks/TANF uses the Minimum Basic Standards of Adequate Care to determine income eligibility. They are adjusted annually for cost of living.

<sup>2</sup>Region 1 consists of more urban counties with higher cost of living: Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Orange, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Ventura. Region 2 includes the more rural counties (those not listed for region 1).

\*Denotes programs with additional citizenship eligibility criteria. Non-citizens may not be eligible.

Note: These thresholds are updated on July 1, 2017 for all programs except CalFresh and Medi-Cal, which are updated Oct. 1, 2017

| Program Name                                                                        | Benefits (\$ / Description)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Benefit Calculations and Program Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <table><tr><th>Number of Eligible Household/Family Members</th><th>Maximum Monthly Allotment</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>\$194</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>\$357</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>\$511</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>\$649</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>\$771</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>\$925</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>\$1,022</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>\$1,169</td></tr><tr><td>Each Additional</td><td>\$146</td></tr></table>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Number of Eligible Household/Family Members                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Maximum Monthly Allotment | 1              | \$194                  | 2                                       | \$357                                  | 3                    | \$511                | 4                        | \$649                    | 5                  | \$771            | 6                | \$925            | 7              | \$1,022        | 8                | \$1,169          | Each Additional | \$146          | <p><b>Eligibility/Citizenship:</b> Only U.S. citizens, green card holders with 5 years of residency, and some other, specific categories of authorized immigrants are eligible. Undocumented immigrants, and visa holders (including H-2A and students) are not eligible. However, ineligible parents can apply for benefits for their lawfully present children.</p> <p><b>Benefit Calculation:</b> For a household of all citizens/legal residents, CalFresh has a 24% benefit reduction rate (from pre-tax earnings). So an extra \$100 of income per month leads to a reduction of \$24 in CalFresh benefits.</p> <p><b>Benefit Calculation:</b> For a mixed-status household where the non-citizens are income earners, CalFresh has a benefit reduction rate of <math>.24 * C / N</math>, where <math>C</math> is the number of eligible/citizen household members, and <math>N</math> is the total number of household members. So, for a household with two non-citizen parents, and two citizen children, the benefit reduction rate is <math>24 * 2 / 4 = 12\%</math>. Thus, an extra \$100 in the parents' income leads to a reduction of only \$12 in CalFresh benefits.</p> |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Number of Eligible Household/Family Members                                         | Maximum Monthly Allotment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1                                                                                   | \$194                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2                                                                                   | \$357                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3                                                                                   | \$511                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 4                                                                                   | \$649                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5                                                                                   | \$771                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6                                                                                   | \$925                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 7                                                                                   | \$1,022                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 8                                                                                   | \$1,169                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Each Additional                                                                     | \$146                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|    | <table><tr><th colspan="2">Example Monthly Food Bundles</th></tr><tr><th>Pregnant Woman</th><th>Children (1 ≥ age ≤ 5)</th></tr><tr><td>\$11 Check to buy Fruits and Vegetables</td><td>\$8 Check to buy Fruits and Vegetables</td></tr><tr><td>Whole Grains (16 oz)</td><td>Whole Grains (16 oz)</td></tr><tr><td>Breakfast Cereal (36 oz)</td><td>Breakfast Cereal (36 oz)</td></tr><tr><td>Milk (4.5 gallons)</td><td>Milk (3 gallons)</td></tr><tr><td>Lowfat or Nonfat</td><td>Lowfat or Nonfat</td></tr><tr><td>Yogurt (32 oz)</td><td>Yogurt (32 oz)</td></tr><tr><td>Lowfat or Nonfat</td><td>Lowfat or Nonfat</td></tr><tr><td>Cheese (16 oz)</td><td>Cheese (16 oz)</td></tr><tr><td>Eggs (1 dozen)</td><td>Eggs (1 dozen)</td></tr><tr><td>Juice (144 oz)</td><td>Juice (128 oz)</td></tr><tr><td>Peanut Butter (16-18 oz)</td><td>Peanut Butter (16-18 oz) or</td></tr><tr><td>Dry Beans, Peas, or Lentils (16 oz)</td><td>Dry Beans, Peas, or Lentils (16 oz)</td></tr></table> | Example Monthly Food Bundles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                           | Pregnant Woman | Children (1 ≥ age ≤ 5) | \$11 Check to buy Fruits and Vegetables | \$8 Check to buy Fruits and Vegetables | Whole Grains (16 oz) | Whole Grains (16 oz) | Breakfast Cereal (36 oz) | Breakfast Cereal (36 oz) | Milk (4.5 gallons) | Milk (3 gallons) | Lowfat or Nonfat | Lowfat or Nonfat | Yogurt (32 oz) | Yogurt (32 oz) | Lowfat or Nonfat | Lowfat or Nonfat | Cheese (16 oz)  | Cheese (16 oz) | Eggs (1 dozen)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Eggs (1 dozen) | Juice (144 oz) | Juice (128 oz) | Peanut Butter (16-18 oz) | Peanut Butter (16-18 oz) or | Dry Beans, Peas, or Lentils (16 oz) | Dry Beans, Peas, or Lentils (16 oz) | <p><b>Eligibility:</b> WIC does not have a citizenship restriction, however, only pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children are eligible for benefits. Benefits cease for children after they are 5 years old, and for women, after they have had their child for one year.</p> <p><b>Benefit Calculation:</b> There are 5 (slightly) different food bundles available to women and children depending on age, breastfeeding, and pregnancy status. Recipients can choose to redeem only some of the food items (except infant formulas must be redeemed in full).</p> <p><b>Approximate Value:</b> In California, on average, WIC benefits amount to \$60 per month per participant. These benefits are fixed and are not reduced unless the participants exceed the income limit, in which case they receive no benefits.</p> |
| Example Monthly Food Bundles                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Pregnant Woman                                                                      | Children (1 ≥ age ≤ 5)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| \$11 Check to buy Fruits and Vegetables                                             | \$8 Check to buy Fruits and Vegetables                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Whole Grains (16 oz)                                                                | Whole Grains (16 oz)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Breakfast Cereal (36 oz)                                                            | Breakfast Cereal (36 oz)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Milk (4.5 gallons)                                                                  | Milk (3 gallons)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Lowfat or Nonfat                                                                    | Lowfat or Nonfat                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Yogurt (32 oz)                                                                      | Yogurt (32 oz)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Lowfat or Nonfat                                                                    | Lowfat or Nonfat                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Cheese (16 oz)                                                                      | Cheese (16 oz)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Eggs (1 dozen)                                                                      | Eggs (1 dozen)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Juice (144 oz)                                                                      | Juice (128 oz)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Peanut Butter (16-18 oz)                                                            | Peanut Butter (16-18 oz) or                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Dry Beans, Peas, or Lentils (16 oz)                                                 | Dry Beans, Peas, or Lentils (16 oz)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|  | <p><b>Average School Meal Prices</b> in California Elementary and High Schools Range from:</p> <p>\$0.00 - \$3.80 per meal<br/>(Depending on school district)</p> <p><b>Free Meals</b> reduce this cost to:</p> <p>\$0.00 per meal</p> <p><b>Reduced Price Meals</b> reduce this cost to:</p> <p>\$0.30 for Breakfast<br/>\$0.40 for Lunch</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p><b>Eligibility:</b> There is no citizenship requirement for this program. Families must have incomes at or below the income thresholds.</p> <p><b>Exceptions:</b> Many California elementary schools are CEP-eligible, and all students are provided free meals. (There are no individual income tests, CEP-eligible schools are ones where ≥40% of students are considered at risk of hunger.)</p> <p><b>Benefit Calculation:</b> Benefits are fixed unless participants exceed the income thresholds, in which case they move to receiving either reduced price meals or pay for full priced meals.</p> <p><b>Approximate Value:</b> The value of this program to participants depends on the cost of school lunches in the district. In California, on average, free meals saves students \$2.50 per day/\$12.50 per week.</p> |                           |                |                        |                                         |                                        |                      |                      |                          |                          |                    |                  |                  |                  |                |                |                  |                  |                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                |                |                          |                             |                                     |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

| Program Name                                                                                                                                                                                        | Benefits (\$ / Description)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                   | Benefit Calculations and Program Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                    | Benefits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Cost to Participant                                                               | Who is Eligible?*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Full-scope Medi-Cal:</b><br>Includes all medically necessary medical services, preventive services and dental services.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Free                                                                              | Adults age 19-64, must have:<br>California residency and either U.S. citizenship, or a green card<br>Family income ≤ 138% of the Poverty Line<br>Minors age < 19, must have:<br>Family income ≤ 160% of the Poverty Line (No citizenship requirement for minors) |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Monthly cost of \$13 per child, up to a maximum of \$39 per month per family      | Minors age < 19, must have:<br>Family income >160%, ≤ 266% of the Poverty Line (No citizenship requirement for minors)                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Medi-Cal for Pregnant Women:</b><br>Includes all medically necessary pregnancy related services for pregnant women.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Free                                                                              | Pregnant and Postpartum Women, must have:<br>California residency and either U.S. citizenship, or a green card<br>Family income > 138%, ≤ 213% of the Poverty Line                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1.5% of yearly family income (can be paid in monthly installments). Known as MCAP | Pregnant and Postpartum Women, must have:<br>Family income ≤ 322% of the Poverty Line (No citizenship requirement for MCAP)                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Partial-scope Medi-Cal:</b><br>Includes emergency and pregnancy related services.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Free                                                                              | Adults age 19-64, must have:<br>Family income ≤ 138% of the Poverty Line<br>Proof of California residency (Emergency services are available to visa holders, lawfully present residents without green cards, and undocumented immigrants)                        |
| *Note: Medi-Cal is probably the most complicated of these programs. These eligibility criteria are guidelines, and do not guarantee that workers will receive benefits if they meet the guidelines. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                  | Provides family planning services and limited related services. Benefits include all FDA approved contraceptive methods and supplies, family planning counseling and education, sexually transmitted infection (STIs) testing & treatment, HIV screening, cervical cancer screening, male and female permanent contraception, and limited infertility services. |                                                                                   | <b>To be eligible for Family PACT, applicants must:</b><br>Be California Residents (No citizenship requirement)<br>Have no other source of health care coverage for family planr<br>Have a medical necessity for family planning services                        |

| Program Name                                                                        | Benefits (\$ / Description)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Benefit Calculations and Program Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------|-------------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|---------|---|---------|---|---------|------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <p>The Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) provides USDA commodities to a network of food banks for distribution to eligible individuals and households within their service area.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>Eligibility:</b> There are no citizenship requirements, recipients must reside within the geographical service area, and must provide proof of income.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|    | <table><tr><th colspan="2">Maximum Monthly Payments in Region 2</th></tr><tr><th>Household Size</th><th>Maximum Aid</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>\$331</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>\$541</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>\$670</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>\$799</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>\$909</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>\$1,021</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>\$1,120</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>\$1,222</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>\$1,321</td></tr><tr><td>10 or more</td><td>\$1,418</td></tr></table> | Maximum Monthly Payments in Region 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  | Household Size | Maximum Aid | 1 | \$331 | 2 | \$541 | 3 | \$670 | 4 | \$799 | 5 | \$909 | 6 | \$1,021 | 7 | \$1,120 | 8 | \$1,222 | 9 | \$1,321 | 10 or more | \$1,418 | <p><b>Eligibility/Citizenship:</b> Only parents who are U.S. citizens, green card holders with 5 years of residency, or some other, specific category of eligible immigrant can receive benefits. They must be a California resident, and must be taking care of a child under the age of 18. Children must be considered "deprived". There is a resource limit of \$2,250.</p> <p><b>Benefit Calculation:</b> CalWORKS has a 50% benefit reduction rate (from "countable income"). So, an extra \$100 per month leads to a reduction of \$50 in CalWORKS payments.</p> <p><b>Exceptions:</b> Families are only eligible for cash benefits for up to 48 months; this is a lifetime limit.</p> |
| Maximum Monthly Payments in Region 2                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Household Size                                                                      | Maximum Aid                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1                                                                                   | \$331                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2                                                                                   | \$541                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3                                                                                   | \$670                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 4                                                                                   | \$799                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 5                                                                                   | \$909                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 6                                                                                   | \$1,021                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 7                                                                                   | \$1,120                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 8                                                                                   | \$1,222                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 9                                                                                   | \$1,321                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10 or more                                                                          | \$1,418                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|   | <p>Provides monthly food packages for low-income seniors. Most participants pick up their food packages at local food banks, however, some distribution centers can arrange for the packages to be delivered monthly.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>Eligibility/Citizenship:</b> Participants must be age 60 or older. There is no citizenship requirement for this program.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|  | <p>Low income housing offers two options to assist low income families with affording a place to live. The first option gives families a monthly voucher to cover a portion of their rent in any home or apartment. The second option is for families to live in established low income apartments or homes at significantly lower prices than other options in the area.</p>                                                                                                                      | <p><b>Eligibility/Citizenship:</b> Technically, only citizens are eligible for low income housing. However, undocumented parents with lawfully present children are also eligible for low income housing options if they reside with their children.</p> <p><b>Benefit Calculation:</b> The monthly voucher that families are eligible for is equal to the portion of rent greater than 30% of the household's gross income.</p> |  |                |             |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |       |   |         |   |         |   |         |   |         |            |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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# Program Summary: CalFresh

*Ali Hill, University of California, Davis*

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**T**he Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as CalFresh in California, is a federal safety net program that provides nutrition assistance to low-income families. The program issues need-based electronic benefit transfers that can be used to purchase food at grocery stores and markets.

## Eligibility

Eligibility for CalFresh benefits has two (relevant) main components: (1) a restriction on total household income, and (2) specific immigration status requirements.<sup>1</sup> Generally, if a household meets these requirements they are eligible for CalFresh, and benefits are calculated as described in the previous section. In the following sections, I discuss the specific income and immigration status eligibility requirements of SNAP, focusing on the relevant ones for agricultural laborers.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>There is also a resource limit, however most households are not subject to it. More details on households that are subject to the resource limit can be found at the CalFresh website: <http://www.calfresh.ca.gov/Pg841.htm>

<sup>2</sup>There are additional specific requirements (e.g. work requirements) and special cases related to applicants with household members who are elderly or disabled that are not immediately relevant for the agricultural labor population. More information on these additional stipulations for CalFresh are available through the CalFresh Regulations: <http://www.calfresh.ca.gov/PG845.htm>

## Income

The income test for CalFresh benefits has two components: gross and net income tests. The gross income test is straightforward—households meet this requirement if their total monthly income is at or below 130% of the poverty line for their household size. If households meet the gross income test, then the net income test is also computed. The household's monthly net income must be at or below 100% of the poverty line for the household size; where  $\text{net income} = \text{gross income} - \text{deductions}$ . Some relevant deductions for the net income test are shown in table 1. The current gross and net income tests for CalFresh applicants are shown in the Program Income Eligibility Guidelines Sheet.

CalFresh recipients are expected to report any changes to their income or other relevant circumstances (e.g. household size) within 10 days of the adjustment. In addition, the program requires households to submit a Semi-Annual Reporting form once a year, followed by a recertification form 6 months later. These forms require households to submit an income statement from all income earned in the relevant report month, as well as medical and dependent care expenses.

## Immigration Status

Generally, citizens and lawfully-present permanent residents are eligible for CalFresh benefits. Immigrants who are lawfully-present permanent residents (green card holders) must additionally meet one of the following conditions to be eligible for CalFresh

**Table 1: Deductions for Net Income Calculations**

| Deduction Type     | Deduction Amount                                                            | Description                                                                                              |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Earned Income      | 20%                                                                         | e.g. Wages and salaries                                                                                  |
| Standard Deduction | \$155 HH size 1-3<br>\$168 HH size 4<br>\$197 HH size 5<br>\$226 HH size 6+ | Deduction allowed per person per month                                                                   |
| Excess Shelter     | Any shelter cost in excess of 50% of HH income                              | Cannot exceed maximum (currently \$504). Excess of HH income after earned income and standard deductions |
| Homeless Shelter   | Maximum \$143                                                               | Available to homeless persons who are not receiving free shelter for entire month                        |
| Standard Utility   | Maximum \$385                                                               | HH that incurs utility costs                                                                             |
| Limited Utility    | Maximum \$118                                                               | For households that incur at least two separate utility costs                                            |

benefits:

1. Have lived in the country for 5 years
2. Are receiving disability-related assistance or benefits, regardless of entry date
3. Are under 18 years old

Relevant to the agricultural workforce, those who are not eligible for CalFresh benefits include: (i) illegal immigrants, (ii) temporary agricultural workers (H-2A visa holders), (iii) students, and (iv) lawful residents who have not lived in the U.S. for 5 years. In the case of (iv), these applicants are eligible for the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provides the same program benefits, but is instead funded through the state. Households that contain some eligible members (i.e. citizens and green card holders) and some ineligible (i.e. (i)-(v) above) are considered mixed-status households.

The SNAP/CalFresh income and benefit calculations have an interesting adjustment for mixed-status households, called income pro-rating. In this process, income from ineligible household members is divided equally among all household members. Then, to determine CalFresh benefits, the number of household members is counted as the number of eligible household members. After the income pro-rating, all but the ineligible members share is counted as

income for the household of eligible members.<sup>3</sup> This system of pro-rating income effectively raises the estimated income of the eligible household members, so a mixed-status household near the threshold of the income eligibility cut-off will likely not be eligible for CalFresh after these income pro-ration adjustments. This same pro-rated income is what is used in the benefits calculations as well for these households, so it additionally lowers the benefit amounts to mixed-status households.

## Program Benefits

The primary benefit to SNAP is the monthly electronic payment that recipients can spend on most food items in grocery stores. The size of these monthly allotments are determined by the total household income and the number of household members. In California, CalFresh benefits are made available over the first ten days of every month, with participants receiving their benefits on the same day every month. The benefits are calculated by subtracting 30% of net monthly income from the USDA maximum monthly allotment. The maximum monthly allotment is updated annually by the USDA

<sup>3</sup>More information on income calculations and treatment of mixed-status households can be found at: [http://www.cdss.ca.gov/calfreshoutreach/res/Toolkit/QuickReference/RegulationQuickReference\\_F\\_UniqueHouseholdComposition.pdf](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/calfreshoutreach/res/Toolkit/QuickReference/RegulationQuickReference_F_UniqueHouseholdComposition.pdf)

to account for changing food prices, and is periodically revised to include different bundles of food (the last revision was in 2006).<sup>4</sup> The maximum monthly allotments for October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 are shown in the Program Benefits Sheet. So, as an example, a household of 4 people with a net income of \$1000 will receive monthly benefits of:  $649 - .3 \cdot 1000 = \$349$ .

In addition to these electronic benefit transfers, CalFresh recipients are able to utilize SNAP-Ed, which is an educational resource intended to improve the likelihood that eligible participants make healthy food and lifestyle choices with a limited budget. However, the primary benefit to CalFresh is clearly the monthly benefit transfer.

## Additional Resources

Basic guidelines on SNAP eligibility and benefits can be found on the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service website:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/eligibility>

More details on SNAP eligibility for non-citizens can be found at:

[http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Non-Citizen\\_Guidance\\_063011.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/Non-Citizen_Guidance_063011.pdf)

Specific details on the California SNAP program (CalFresh) can be found at the California Department of Social Services:

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/foodstamps/>

More specific details on CalFresh eligibility and benefits for non-citizens in California can be found on the website for Legal Services of Northern California:

<http://calfresh.lsncl.net>

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<sup>4</sup>For more information on how these maximum monthly allotments are determined see: Andrea Carlson, Mark Lino, and WenYen Juan, et al., Thrifty Food Plan, 2006.

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# Program Summary: WIC

**Ali Hill**, University of California, Davis

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**T**he Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a federally funded health and nutrition program. WIC provides nutrition education, money for purchasing supplemental foods, and assistance in finding healthcare and other community services. WIC recipients must meet income guidelines and be either pregnant women, new mothers (up to 1 year postpartum), infants, or children under the age of 5.

## Eligibility

Eligibility for WIC has three primary components: (1) a restriction on total household gross income that varies by state— in California, the income threshold is 185% of the poverty line; (2) specific categorical eligibility requirements, i.e. only pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and children under the age of 5 are eligible for WIC; and (3) a nutrition risk requirement— applicants must be seen by a health professional who must determine whether the individual is at nutrition risk (this nutrition assessment is often done at the WIC agency). While these are the main eligibility components, states also decide whether to restrict eligibility based on legal status. In California, families are eligible for WIC, regardless of immigration status, as long as they reside in California.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>More information on California-specific eligibility can be found at: <http://cms.sbcounty.gov/wic/DoIQualify.aspx>

## Income

The income test for WIC is based on a simple gross income test— households meet this requirement if their total income is at or below 185% of the poverty line for a household of their size. The Program Income Eligibility Guidelines Sheet gives the income test thresholds for WIC applicants. Generally, WIC agencies will convert income into monthly or annual estimates to determine eligibility. A person who participates or has family members who participate in certain other benefit programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), automatically meets the income eligibility requirement.

Unlike SNAP, the income test for WIC includes many forms of income in addition to wages. To determine whether a family meets the income eligibility requirement for WIC, agencies include the following forms of income:

1. Wages, salaries, tips, commissions, bonuses, and unemployment compensation.
2. Net income from self-employment.
3. Social security benefits.
4. State disability insurance.
5. Dividends or interest on savings bonds, rental income.
6. Public assistance or welfare payments (cash only).

7. Retirement or pension payments.
8. Alimony or child support payments.
9. Regular contributions from persons not living in the household.
10. Student financial assistance.
11. Cash awards/income.

Generally, applicants are required to submit formal proof of all income sources, however self-declaration of income is allowed when proof of income presents an "unreasonable barrier to participation".<sup>2</sup> Migrant farm workers are among those facing unreasonable barriers to participation, and are allowed to self-report income by signing a statement attesting to the family's reported income.

## Program Benefits

The primary benefit to WIC are the monthly checks or electronic benefit transfers that can be used to purchase a specific bundle of foods. The food bundles are different for women, infants, and children; they are tailored toward the nutritional needs of these individuals and are dependent on whether or not the mother is currently breastfeeding the child. The maximum monthly allowances for supplemental foods and the particular food bundles also vary by state. The Program Benefits Sheet shows the maximum monthly allowance food bundles for pregnant women and children between the ages of 1 and 5 in California.<sup>3</sup> The final items and quantities are determined based on nutritional and financial need for individual applicants. Participants are required to purchase all of the food items that are grouped together on a check at once as a bundle, however, they are not required to purchase all of the items in the bundle.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to these monthly food allotments, WIC recipients also have access to nutrition education

resources, and, for mothers, training on breastfeeding practices.

## Additional Resources

General information on California WIC and the eligibility criteria can be found at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Pages/AboutWICandHowtoApply.aspx>

The California WIC program manual is available at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Documents/WPM/WIC-WPM-210-03.pdf>

A full list of the WIC program bundles is available at:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Documents/NE/WIC-NE-EdMaterials-YourWICFoods-2016.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Taken from the California WIC Program Manual: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Documents/WPM/WIC-WPM-210-03.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>For more details on the food bundles for other individuals, see: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/Documents/NE/WIC-NE-EdMaterials-YourWICFoods-2016.pdf>. For more details on the authorized foods list, see: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/wicworks/WIC%20Foods/WICAuthorizedFoodListShoppingGuide-3-28-2016.pdf>

<sup>4</sup>Participants are required to purchase the full amount of infant formula they are allotted, however they are allowed to purchase less of the other foods.

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# Program Summary: NSLP

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**T**he National School Lunch and Breakfast Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches and breakfasts to low-income children every school day.

## Eligibility

Eligibility for NSLB is based entirely on the family's gross annual income (this includes earnings from work as well as benefits from other welfare programs, child support payments, pensions, etc.). Generally, parents complete an application for NSLP at the start of each school year. To receive free lunches for their child, the family must be at or below 130% of the poverty guideline for their family size; and to receive reduced price meals they must be at or below 185% of the poverty guideline.<sup>1</sup> If anyone in the household is receiving SNAP (CalFresh) or TANF (CalWorks), the child is automatically eligible for free lunches.

## Program Benefits

For families that have total household incomes below 130% of the poverty guideline, their children are eligible for both free lunches and breakfasts in

elementary and high school. For families that have total household incomes between 130% and 185% of the poverty guideline, their children are eligible for reduced price lunches (\$0.40) and breakfasts (\$0.30).

This program provides free and reduced price meals that meet the USDA's school meal nutrition standards on each school day. As of 2014, school meal prices in California elementary and high schools range from \$0.00 - \$3.80 per meal. These prices are set by school district, and some districts with large populations of low-income students provide free meals to all students because they are able to implement the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).

Currently, this program does not provide benefits to students when school is not in session (i.e. over holidays and the summer). However, California utilizes the Summer Meal Service Program to provide free nutritious meals to children during these periods. Rather than children receiving these meals at school, however, parents must look up their county distribution/ service site.

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<sup>1</sup>See the program income eligibility guidelines sheet for the specific values of these thresholds.

## Additional Resources

General information on the NSLP can be found on the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service website:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/national-school-lunch-program-nslp>

More information on California's School Nutrition Programs (including National School Lunch and Breakfast, California Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, and the Special Milk Program) can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/>

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities provides a searchable database that provides information on which schools are eligible for the CEP:

<http://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/community-eligibility-database-schools-that-can-adopt-community-eligibility>

For a list of Summer Meal Service Sites, see the list provided by the California Department of Education:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sh/sn/summersites16.asp>

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# Program Summary: Medi-Cal

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**M**edicaid, known as Medi-Cal in California, is a national health coverage program that pays medical expenses for people with low incomes. For eligible applicants, Medi-Cal offers full or partial coverage of medical costs from doctors visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, rehabilitation, and other medical services.

## Eligibility

There are over 90 different ways to qualify for Medi-Cal; these different ways are called eligibility categories, and each has its own rules and requirements. Because of the complicated nature of the application and acceptance process for Medi-Cal, there are several options for determining eligibility (see the application process sheet for resources on this process). Broadly, eligibility is determined by the applicant's household size, age, pregnancy status, earned income, disability status, and citizenship status.

The relevant income thresholds for the 3 primary categories of applicants—standard/general, pregnant women, and children—are given in the program income eligibility guidelines sheet. To determine whether a household meets the Medi-Cal income test, income is calculated using the Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI). This measure of income includes most earned and unearned income, however, it does not include benefits from SSI, CalWORKs, CalFresh, workers' compensation, earned income that is put in a 401(k) plan or an IRA, and other non-taxable incomes. Income-based Medi-Cal does not

include an asset test, but, some eligibility categories may limit countable resources (e.g. Medi-Cal for the Aged and Disabled).

## Citizenship Status

Among the more complicated aspects of Medi-Cal eligibility is eligibility for undocumented immigrants. Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal, however they are often eligible for Partial-scope benefits. Similarly to CalFresh, the citizen or lawfully present children of undocumented immigrants are eligible for full-scope benefits if they meet the other income eligibility criteria. Medi-Cal uses the "Revised Income Formula" when counting the income for mixed-status households:

$$(\text{Household Income}) \times \frac{100\% \text{ FPL for family size}-n}{100\% \text{ FPL for family size}}$$

Where  $n$  denotes the number of undocumented/ineligible household members, and FPL refers to the Federal Poverty Level (these are the national poverty thresholds that are set annually). Using this "Revised Income Formula", if the household's total income is exactly at the poverty line before excluding any ineligible members, then the family will remain exactly at the poverty line for their revised family size after applying this formula.

For example, consider a family with two citizen children and two undocumented parents. Assume that their annual income is equal to the (2016) federal poverty level of \$24,250. Given that the (2016) FPL for a family of size 2 is \$15,930, using the revised

income formula, the income used for the Medi-Cal eligibility test is:

$$24,300 \times \frac{16,020}{24,300} = 16,020.$$

Medi-Cal will use this revised income to determine the eligibility of the 2 person household, because they exclude the ineligible parents in the calculation. For this example family, both children would meet the income eligibility criteria for full-scope Medi-Cal.

## Program Benefits

For an overview of the Medi-Cal benefits for several eligibility categories, see the program benefits sheet. The Medi-Cal benefit options can be separated into three general categories:

**(1) Full-scope Medi-Cal** includes all medically necessary services, preventative services and dental services at little or no cost to the participant.

**(2) Medi-Cal for Pregnant Women** includes all medically necessary pregnancy related services.

**(3) Partial-scope Medi-Cal** only includes emergency and pregnancy related services.

The benefits sheet provides an overview of how the eligibility categories sort recipients into these three types of benefits and whether recipients are eligible for free or low-cost benefits. Generally, undocumented immigrants are only eligible for partial-scope Medi-Cal, while low-income children under the age of 19 are usually eligible for full-scope benefits, regardless of their citizenship status.

## Additional Resources

A good overview of eligibility and benefits for Medi-Cal is available at:

[https://ca.db101.org/ca/programs/health\\_coverage/medi\\_cal/](https://ca.db101.org/ca/programs/health_coverage/medi_cal/)

An excellent resource for the Medi-Cal eligibility of immigrants is available at:

<http://www.coveredca.com/individuals-and-families/getting-covered/immigrants/>

For more general information on Medicaid, not limited to California, visit:

<https://www.medicaid.gov>

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# Program Summary: Family PACT

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**F**amily PACT is California's approach to provide comprehensive family planning services to eligible low income men and women. The goals of the program are to promote optimal reproductive health and to reduce unplanned pregnancies by lowering the barriers than many low income men and women face in obtaining family planning services. This program is particularly targeted toward under-insured and uninsured Californians. The most common outlet for the use of Family PACT is at California Planned Parenthood centers. For low-income men and women who are not eligible for Medi-Cal, Planned Parenthood centers assist in signing visitors up for Family PACT, to offer family planning services at low or no cost.

## Eligibility

Family PACT clients must meet an income test by having a family income at or below 200% of the poverty level (see the income eligibility guidelines page). Additionally, Family PACT is specifically for California residents without any other source of insurance that covers family planning services and who are in need of such services. The most common location for utilizing the benefits from Family PACT and for applying are at local Planned Parenthood offices.

## Program Benefits

Family PACT provides comprehensive family planning services to women and men including all FDA approved forms of contraception, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing with counseling, preconception counseling, male and female sterilization, limited infertility services, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, cancer screening, and HIV screening. Individual client reproductive health education and counseling is an ongoing component of all services.

## Additional Resources

Most information can be found on the website for Family PACT:

<http://www.familypact.org>

Application resources and more information on the use of Family PACT at Planned Parenthood is available by contacting local Planned Parenthood offices:

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org>

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# Program Summary: TEFAP

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**T**he Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a means-tested federal program that provides food commodities at no cost to Americans in need of short-term hunger relief through food providers like emergency food pantries, food banks, soup kitchens and shelters.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for USDA commodities through TEFAP, households must reside within the geographical area being served by the distribution center.<sup>1</sup> In addition to this geographic requirement, households must be at or below 150% of the poverty level to be eligible for commodities through EFAP (see the program income eligibility guidelines for the specific income cut-offs). Additionally, households already receiving some forms of government aid automatically qualify for TEFAP.

## Program Benefits

Through TEFAP, the U.S. Department of Agricultural (USDA) purchases a variety of nutritious foods and allows states to distribute these foods to local food agencies, usually food banks, which in turn distribute some of the foods to local organizations that serve predominantly low-income populations, such as soup kitchens and food pantries. The organizations

that distribute these foods to individuals for home use must collect proof of the household's income eligibility before distributing the food. The organizations that provide prepared meals must demonstrate that they are serving predominantly low-income persons, but these individuals are not subject to a means test.

The foods that are made available through TEFAP include canned and fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh and dried eggs, meat, poultry, fish, milk, cheese pasta, and cereal. In 2016, the USDA made nearly 90 different products available to low-income recipients through TEFAP.<sup>2</sup>

## Additional Resources

General information on TEFAP can be found at the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service website:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/tefap/about-tefap>

A fact sheet on TEFAP:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/tefap/pfs-tefap.pdf>

A brief overview of the California-specific guidelines for TEFAP:

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/efap/>

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<sup>1</sup>Food is usually distributed at county food banks, the list of California food banks can be found at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/efap/PG1910.htm>.

<sup>2</sup>A complete list of the foods available can be found at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/foods-expected-be-available>

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# Program Summary: CalWORKs

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**T**emporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), known as California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) in California, is a welfare program that provides temporary assistance by giving cash aid and services to eligible needy families. Eligible families receive money each month to help pay for housing, food and other necessary expenses.

## Eligibility

Eligibility for CalWORKs is based on more factors than many other welfare programs. In general, CalWORKs has more stringent eligibility criteria than other welfare programs; as an effect, families receiving CalWORKs are automatically eligible for many other welfare programs (e.g. CalFresh, NSLP, WIC, and Medi-Cal). To be eligible, applicants must: (1) have income and assets below the established thresholds; (2) meet citizenship requirements; (3) have children 18 years old or younger living in the home; and (4) must not have received more than 48 (non-consecutive) months of CalWORKs assistance.

## Income and Assets

The income test for CalWORKs is based on family size and what county the applicant resides in. The current income limits are shown in the program income eligibility guidelines sheets. When calculating total household income, CalWORKs does not count some things as income, such as supplemental security

income (SSI), loans and grants, the earned income tax credit (EITC), and federal relocation/disaster benefits. CalWORKs does count earned income from all household members and some other sources of unearned income, such as social security disability insurance (SSDI), and investment income.

To determine the countable income for the income eligibility test, households must sum all necessary sources of income, then subtract \$90 for each working family member. If this final amount is below the income eligibility threshold for the family size, then the family meets the income eligibility criteria for CalWORKs.

The asset test for CalWORKs requires that households have \$2,250 or less in resources (\$3,250 if the family includes someone age 60 or older). The resources that CalWORKs considers for this test are cash or properties that can be converted to cash, including: money in savings accounts, stocks, bonds, and some personal possessions. The asset test does not count a home, household goods (e.g. furniture and appliances), or a car (as long as it is valued under \$9,500).

## Citizenship, Children, and Benefit Period

Generally, to receive CalWORKs, the parent or caretaker must be a citizen, have a green card, or meet other, specific, residency requirements. In addition, the parent must be a California resident, and must be taking care of at least one child who is under the age of 18. When determining the family size for the eligibility tests, CalWORKs may not include ineligible household members, such as non-citizens,

people who get SSI, and drug or fleeing felons. If neither parent has proper immigration status, their children may still be eligible for CalWORKs if they are under the age 18, and if they are either U.S. citizens or have legal residency in the U.S.; in this case, the non-eligible parents will have to provide proof of their income to obtain benefits for their eligible children.

Children receiving CalWORKs must be considered “deprived” by having at least one parent who is unemployed, disabled, or continuously absent. If the child is under the age of 6, they must have all standard immunizations; if they are of school age and under the age of 16, they must be attending school regularly.

As of 2011, TANF has restricted families to receive benefits for a maximum of 60 months total (including non-consecutive receipt periods), but allows states to further restrict this maximum receipt period. In California, eligible families are restricted to receiving benefits for a total of 4 years, or 48 months, in total.

## Program Benefits

The primary benefit to CalWORKs is a monthly cash benefit distributed as an electronic benefit transfer (EBT). The monthly benefits can be used at any retail establishment that accepts debit cards, and can be used to withdraw cash. The amount that families are eligible for is dependent on the family size, whether they are considered exempt (when all caretakers are disabled), and what region they reside in. Table 1 gives the maximum grant amounts that families of each category are eligible for.<sup>1</sup>

The benefit amount that families are eligible for is calculated by subtracting the total countable income from the maximum grant amount. The countable income for this calculation, however, is different from the income used for the eligibility test. To estimate the income that determines benefit amounts, county human services agencies follow these steps:

1. Add up all of the money received from disability benefits, including SDI, private disability insurance, workers’ compensation, and SSDI. Any family members who get SSI won’t be counted

as part of the family by CalWORKs, so SSI benefits or any other income they may have should not be included.

2. Subtract \$225 from the combined total of the disability benefits to find the countable disability income.
3. Add the countable disability income to any other unearned income, such as unemployment benefits or other sources of money that are not from work. The combined total is called the countable unearned income.
4. If the family has earned income:
  - a) Sum the earned income for all counted family members.
  - b) If the family had disability benefits (from step 1) that exceed \$225 (i.e. the number in step 2 is negative), then subtract this amount from the earned income
  - c) If the family did not have disability benefits, subtract \$225 from the earned income.
  - d) Multiply the families remaining earned income by  $\frac{1}{2}$ . This is the countable earned income.
5. Add the countable unearned income from step 3 to the countable earned income from step 4 to get the total countable income.

The final amount of cash benefits the family is eligible for is then calculated by subtracting the total countable income from the maximum grant amount for the family size. CalWORKs effectively has a 50% benefit reduction rate, because for every additional dollar of earned income, the family loses around \$0.50 in CalWORKs benefits.

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<sup>1</sup>Region 1 includes the more urban counties (Alameda, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Orange, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Ventura) where cost of living is higher, so the maximum benefit is correspondingly higher. Region 2 includes the more rural counties (all of the ones not listed above).

**Table 1:** *CalWORKS Maximum Grant Amounts (\$)*

| HH size | Region 1 |            | Region 2 |            |
|---------|----------|------------|----------|------------|
|         | Exempt   | Non-Exempt | Exempt   | Non-Exempt |
| 1       | 387      | 350        | 369      | 331        |
| 2       | 636      | 569        | 607      | 541        |
| 3       | 788      | 704        | 751      | 670        |
| 4       | 946      | 840        | 891      | 799        |
| 5       | 1,065    | 954        | 1,017    | 909        |
| 6       | 1,197    | 1,072      | 1,141    | 1,021      |
| 7       | 1,315    | 1,178      | 1,254    | 1,120      |
| 8       | 1,434    | 1,283      | 1,366    | 1,222      |
| 9       | 1,549    | 1,387      | 1,477    | 1,321      |
| 10      | 1,665    | 1,490      | 1,587    | 1,418      |

## Additional Resources

General information on TANF can be found at Benefits.gov:

<https://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/613>

More detailed information on CalWORKs eligibility and benefits can be found at:

[https://ca.db101.org/ca/programs/income\\_support/calworks/](https://ca.db101.org/ca/programs/income_support/calworks/)

A good resource for understanding the application process for CalWORKs is available at:

<http://santacruzhumanservices.org/EmploymentBenefits/CalWORKsCashAid/WhatIsCalWORKsCashAid.aspx>

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# Program Summary: CSFP

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**T**he Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is a program that supplies supplemental foods to low income elderly persons on a monthly basis. The program is designed to meet the unique nutritional needs of participants, supplementing diets with a monthly package of healthy, nutritious USDA commodities.

## Eligibility

CSFP was previously a program for seniors as well as recently pregnant women, infants, and children. As of 2014, however, only seniors are eligible for CSFP. In addition to being over the age of 60, California CSFP recipients must have incomes at or below 130% of the poverty line (see the program income eligibility guidelines sheet for specific income thresholds). The CSFP is currently operated in California by the San Diego Food Bank, San Francisco Food Bank, Community Action Partnership of Orange County, Redwood Empire Food Bank, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, and The Modesto Love Center. Usually, to receive benefits, senior applicants must reside in California and be able to pick up their monthly food packages at local distribution centers, but some distribution centers arrange for the packages to be delivered.

## Program Benefits

CSFP provides a monthly food package of specific commodities that are tailored to the nutritional needs

of seniors.<sup>1</sup> Similarly to WIC, CSFP only offers a specific bundle of food items. Unlike WIC, CSFP packages are already assembled and do not allow recipients to purchase the bundles themselves. Additionally, CSFP requires that recipients retrieve the entire food package each month. After repeated incidences of not picking up the monthly food packages, CSFP benefits may be discontinued, forcing the individual to reapply if they wish to continue receiving benefits.

## Additional Resources

General information on CSFP:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/csfp/commodity-supplemental-food-program-csfp>

More information on CSFP in California:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/fd/csfp.asp>

Fact sheet on CSFP:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/csfp/programFactSheet-csfp.pdf>

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<sup>1</sup> A list of the specific food packages from 2016 can be found at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/csfp/Revised-Maximum-Monthly-Distribution-Rates.pdf>

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# Program Summary: Low Income Housing

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**T**here are two types of low income housing offered in California: The California Section 8 (Housing Choice Voucher) Program and low-rent housing. These housing assistance programs are a federal government initiative that aims to help low-income families in the state to access affordable, safe and sanitary housing.

## Eligibility

Unlike most other public welfare programs, the income eligibility component of low income housing is determined based on the applicant's income relative to the median income in their county, rather than relative to the federal poverty level. For the Housing Choice Voucher Program, to determine the voucher amount that applicants are eligible for, the California Housing Authority divides applicants into three income categories: low, very low, and extremely low income. The low income households are those that earn 80% of the areas median income; the very low-income category earns 50% of the areas median income; and the extremely low income household is at 30% of the areas median income. In addition to this income-eligibility component, section 8 housing recipients must have at least one member who is either a U.S. citizen or registered legal alien; the most common way that undocumented immigrants are able to live in subsidized housing is by living with their citizen or lawfully present children.

## Program Benefits

The Housing Choice Voucher Program allows families to rent or purchase a house or apartment of their choosing, and the government will pay for some portion of the cost to stay in the residence. Low-rent housing refers to public or privately owned subsidized housing, which limits families to living in established housing options for this purpose. In both cases, the program can help reduce the cost of living significantly. The voucher program generally covers any portion of the rent that is more than 30% of the household's income.

## Additional Resources

A general description of low income housing programs:

<http://www.sectioneightapplication.com>

To find low-rent housing options:

<http://www.hud.gov/apps/section8/>

<http://www.lowincomehousing.us/CA.html>

An updated list of the income limits for California applicants:

<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/housing-policy-development/housing-resource-center/reports/state/incnote.html>

A recent report on assisting low-income Californians with affording housing:

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3345>