CalFresh Eligibility

General Information

This prescreening tool does not cover all rules. Everyone is encouraged to apply for a full eligibility determination.

Start Here

Who does the applicant purchase and prepare food with? ***(Spouses, parents, and children under 22 who live together must apply as one household, even if they don't buy and prepare food together.)***

Use the number of people in the household to find the row on the chart below for the next question.

Is the household under the gross monthly income limit?

If yes, go to the next question.

If no, the household is not likely eligible.

CalFresh Income Limit & Benefit Allotments
Effective October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027

People in Household	Gross Monthly Income Limit	Allotment Range
1	$2,660	$25 - $306
2	$3,608	$25 - $562
3	$4,554	$25 - $808
4	$5,500	$25 - $1023
5	$6,448	$25 - $1,217

CalFresh Household: a person living alone or a group of people living together who purchase and prepare food together.

Does the household include at least one U.S. citizen, U.S. national, LPR/ Green Card holder, Cuban/Haitian Entrant, or COFA citizen?

If yes, go to the next question.

If no, the household is likely not eligible.

If unsure, apply for a full determination.

Does anyone in household participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)?

If yes, the household is not eligible.

If no, go to the next question.

Does anyone in the household receive 10 or less meals per week from another source (like a campus meal plan)?

If yes, go to the next question.

If no, and applicant is receiving over 10 meals a week, the household is likely not eligible.

Is anyone in the household a college student per CalFresh guidelines: enrolled at least half-time and between the ages of 18-49?

If yes, go to the next question.

If no, the applicant does not meet the student eligibility rule, but may need to meet Work and Community Engagement requirements.

Is the college student physically or mentally unable to work or is receiving disability benefits?

If yes, please apply for CalFresh.

If no, review the student eligibility rule section.

CalFresh FOOD | California State University Chico Center for Healthy Communities

Funded by California Department of Social Services, and USDA SNAP. USDA SNAP is known in California as CalFresh, an equal opportunity provider and employer. CalFresh is a California State University, Chico Partner.

CalFresh Eligibility

Student Eligibility Rule

Students (enrolled at least half-time and between ages of 18-49) also need to meet **at least one** of the following:

- **Working** and getting paid an average of **20 hours per week** or an average of **80 hours a month**.
- **Approved (or awarded or accepted) for federal or state work study**, anticipates working, and have not refused a work assignment.
  - May still be eligible if a work study job has not started or is not available.
- Students attending CSU, UC or private university **receiving TANF-funded Cal Grant A or B**, and that have received a letter from the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) noting that they might be eligible for CalFresh benefits.**Enrolled in** Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act **(WIOA)** or in a Local Program that Increases Employability (LPIE).
  - As of June 1, 2026, associate and bachelor's degree programs at CCCs, CSUs, and UCs are approved as LPIEs, including associate degrees for transfer and undeclared students.
  - Other programs may still qualify as LPIEs.
  - Full list of approved LPIEs: https://bit.ly/approvedlpies
- Exerting parental control over a dependent household member under the age of 6 OR between the age of 6 and 12 with no adequate childcare (as determined by the county on a case-by-case basis) OR are a single parent of dependent household member under the age of 12.
- **Participating in** the CalFresh Employment and Training Program **(CFET)** or Job Opportunities and Basic Skills **(JOBS)**, or be a recipient of CalWORKs or Aid to Families with Dependent Children **(AFDC)**.

Other Things to Consider

- As of March 1, 2026, **most educational financial aid does not count as income.**
- **International, DACA, and DREAM students will not be eligible**, even with a work VISA/ Social Security Number.
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