



FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions

NEED CALFRESH ASSISTANCE? WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP!

Feeding America Riverside | San Bernardino's bilingual CalFresh team is ready to assist you in English or Spanish today! If you have any questions, see if we can answer them here or contact us at: (951) 359-4757 or email Erica, at eolson@feedingamericaie.org

WHERE CAN I USE MY CALFRESH BENEFITS?

You can swipe your EBT Card at most major grocery stores, convenience stores, and even some farmer's markets! Use the [SNAP Retail Locator](#) to find a participating store near you!

Your EBT can also be used at local farmers' markets! **Market Match** is California's healthy food incentive program, which matches customers' federal nutrition assistance benefits, like CalFresh and WIC, at farmers' markets and other farm-direct sites. Swipe your EBT card for the amount of your choice, and you will receive CalFresh EBT tokens or paper vouchers to spend on any CalFresh-eligible food items at the market. Market Match is available at 300 sites, spanning 38 counties, which are run by over 50 community-based organizations and farmers' market operators.

[Find a market near you!](#)

WHAT CAN I BUY WITH MY EBT CARD?

You can purchase fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, fish, dairy products, breads, cereals, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and plants or seeds that will be used for consumption. You cannot purchase alcohol, cigarettes, tobacco, prepared or hot foods, vitamins, medicines, supplements, live animals, non-food items, or hygiene products.

DOES CALFRESH ONLY HELP WITH GROCERIES?

No! If you receive any amount of CalFresh Benefits, you may be eligible for any of the programs listed below.

[CARE \(California Alternate Rates for Energy\)](#): Customers who receive CalFresh benefits can apply for the CARE program and receive a 30-35% discount on their electric bill and/or a 20% discount on their natural gas bill.

[SHARE program](#): The SHARE program is available through Riverside Public Utilities to assist qualified, low-income residential electric customers with their utility bills and deposits.

[AT&T Access Program](#): Under the Access program, Cal Fresh recipients could qualify for low-cost home internet (\$10 or less per month).

[Amazon Prime](#): Amazon offers \$5.99 per month Amazon Prime memberships for customers who receive either CalFresh or Medicaid benefits! Amazon Prime includes both FREE 2-day shopping and FREE streaming access to thousands of titles.

[California Lifeline Program](#): Eligible households could receive discounted home phone and cell phone services. Call a participating phone company and ask for the California LifeLine discounts to start the application process.

[Grow Your Own Food](#): Buy seeds and produce-bearing plants with your EBT card! It's a great way to get fresh produce right at home. All CalFresh retailers, including [Farmers' Markets](#), can sell seeds to CalFresh participants.

[Discounted Museum Admission](#): Through Museums for All, those receiving food assistance (CalFresh benefits) can gain free or reduced admission to more than 500 museums throughout the United States simply by presenting their EBT card.



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CAN I APPLY FOR CALFRESH IF I OWN A HOME OR A CAR?

Yes, you could still be eligible for benefits even if you own a home or a car. CalFresh benefits are awarded based on household gross income.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR CALFRESH EVEN IF I RECEIVE SSI (SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME)?

Yes! As of June 2019, people receiving SSI are now eligible to apply for CalFresh.

DO I HAVE TO BE A U.S. CITIZEN IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR CALFRESH?

In California, many non-citizen groups are eligible for CalFresh, including Legal Permanent Residents, U-Visa holders, victims of trafficking, and other [qualified immigrants](#). At this time, undocumented people do not qualify for CalFresh. However, only one person in the household needs to be a citizen or qualified immigrant to be eligible for CalFresh.

More information on CalFresh/SNAP eligibility for non-citizens is available [here](#).

ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR CALFRESH?

Yes! Many college students are eligible for CalFresh under special student eligibility criteria. CalFresh defines a college student as someone aged 18 to 49 and is enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education. Most students qualify if they meet at least one of the following: approved for work-study, receive Cal Grant A or B, work at least 20 hours/week or more, have a \$0 Expected Family Contribution (EFC), have a dependent, receive CalWorks, or are in certain employment/training programs. More information on college student eligibility is available [here](#).

DO I NEED TO INCLUDE EVERYONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IN MY CALFRESH APPLICATION?

A "household" for CalFresh is determined as everyone who buys and prepares meals together. There can be numerous "households" under one roof. If you buy and prepare your food separately from the others in the household, then you may apply for yourself.

WILL CALFRESH IMPACT MY SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS?

No! CalFresh will not impact your benefits from other government assistance programs.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP!

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