

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 19-24

Date: 08/08/19

## CalFresh Application for Youth Exiting Foster Care and NMDs

This is a reminder to assist (1) nonminor dependents (NMDs) and (2) youth transitioning out of foster care as part of their 90-day Transition Planning Conference with applying for CalFresh benefits (also known as food stamps).

### CalWorks or General Relief

If the youth qualifies for CalWorks or General Relief, discuss with the youth and complete the DCFS 5122 Referral Notice on CWS/CMS and follow procedure. Consult your office's co-located Linkages GSW if you have questions regarding their eligibility for either program. However, youth have a right to apply for CalFresh benefits even if the Linkages GSW believes they may be ineligible and youth who wish to apply should not be discouraged from applying. A separate CalFresh application is not necessary as the youth will receive CalFresh through either of those programs if they qualify.

### CalFresh Eligibility

NMDs may qualify for CalFresh while their dependency case is still open. Additionally, NMDs in college are not disqualified from CalFresh ([ACL 17-05](#) and [ACL 18-27](#)). In fact, youth in college are encouraged to apply for benefits as they will probably meet one (or more) of the qualifying exemptions). Please reference ACLs 17-05 and 18-27 for the full list of exemption criteria that allow students to qualify for CalFresh.

### Application Process

- CSWs should assist the youth with the process of completing their CalFresh applications. For further assistance, CSW should set up an appointment for the youth with their office's DPSS Outreach Eligibility Worker (EW) by emailing the [EW and their supervisor](#) to assist the youth and complete the interview portion of the application. In the absence of designated DPSS Outreach workers in the office, CSWs may utilize [getcalfresh.org/s/dcfs](http://getcalfresh.org/s/dcfs) to assist youth with submitting their CalFresh applications.
- The interview portion frequently takes place by phone so stress the importance of providing a current phone number on the application and updating their phone number with DPSS if their number changes.
- The application may take up to 30 days to process so advise the youth to prepare ahead of time. \*(Youth with immediate needs may be able to access Expedited CalFresh benefits in person at a DPSS office. These applications are processed within 3 days, but may be processed the same day.



If you have any questions regarding this release please e-mail your question to:

[Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

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- The youth can also receive assistance in person at any CalFresh office, (2) online at [www.yourbenefits.laclrs.org](http://www.yourbenefits.laclrs.org), (3) in person at Community Partner locations or (4) by calling the Customer Service Center (CSC) (866) 613-3777.
- CSW must document the date of completion and submission of the CalFresh application in CWS/CMS.
- CSWs should also assist the youth in following up on the status of their CalFresh application while it is pending and to understand and address any Notices of Action the youth receives regarding their CalFresh application.
- If the youth believes they were inappropriately denied CalFresh, the CSW believes they were inappropriately denied CalFresh, or if the youth's CalFresh application was not processed in 30 days (or within 3 days if applying for Expedited Benefits) , the CSW should refer the youth for legal assistance at LAFLA or Public Counsel.
- Please visit this [FAQ](#) for more information about CalFresh eligibility for NMDs.



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