

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 19-24 **REV**

Date: 10/30/19

## CalFresh Application for Youth Exiting Foster Care and NMDs

This is a revision of FYI 19-24 which was issued on 08/08/19. This is a reminder to assist (1) non-minor dependents (NMDs) and (2) youth transitioning out of foster care as part of their **6-Month Transition Plan and their** 90-day Transition Planning Conference with applying for CalFresh benefits (previously 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, **please note that Linkages GSW do not determine CalFresh eligibility** so youth should be encouraged to apply for CalFresh benefits. A separate CalFresh application is not necessary, as the youth **can request** CalFresh on their CalWORKs or General Relief applications.

### 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, the 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 with completing the interview portion of the application. In the absence of designated DPSS Outreach workers in the office, CSWs may help the youth with **contacting the Customer Service Center (CSC) at 1(866) 613-3777, Option 1 to submit their CalFresh application.**
- The interview portion of the application 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 youth can also receive assistance in person at any CalFresh office, or online at [getcalfresh.org/s/ladcfcs](http://getcalfresh.org/s/ladcfcs) or [www.yourbenefits.laclrs.org](http://www.yourbenefits.laclrs.org).



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

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- If the youth refuses to apply, then this should be documented in case notes and the Special Project Page under TAY-CalFresh App Referral. In addition, it is best practice to provide the youth with the TAY [CalFresh Pass-It-On card](#) and encourage them to apply when they are ready.
- 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 eligible for Expedited CalFresh benefits. These applications are processed within 3 days, but may be processed the same day.)
- 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 Notice of Action the youth receives regarding their CalFresh application.
- If the youth or CSW believe that a youth was 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), or if there are any concerns with the processing of the case; CSW may refer the youth to contact the [DPSS Foster Care Liaison](#) at the designated DPSS office where the CalFresh application is assigned as most issues can be resolved at that level.
- On rare instances where any CalFresh case issues or concerns cannot be resolved by the [DPSS Foster Care Liaison](#), the CSW should refer the youth for legal assistance from an appropriate legal services organization, such as Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA), Public Counsel or Neighborhood Legal Services.
- Please visit this [FAQ](#) for more information about CalFresh eligibility for NMDs.



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