



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 25-21

Date: 11/05/2025

COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT DIVISION SUPPORT TO CALFRESH PARTICIPANTS

This FYI outlines important information regarding supporting a family's access to [FOOD RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CALFRESH PARTICIPANTS](#) who are impacted by the Federal Government shutdown.

PREVENTION & AFTERCARE FOR FAMILY MAINTENANCE (FM) FAMILIES

In response to the Federal government shut down and the corresponding loss of CalFresh assistance to families, the Prevention & Aftercare (P&A) providers have received additional funding to provide support to DCFS FM families.

To qualify, families must: 1) have an open DCFS FM case, 2) have been receiving CalFresh at the time of the government shutdown, and 3) not currently participating in Family Preservation (FP) services. P&A providers will be coordinating with the DCFS office Community Based Liaisons (CBLs) to assist in aiding families. The following steps need to be taken to assist with this process:

- CSWs: Identify qualifying families from your caseloads.
- SCSWs: Collect your unit's case information on the CalFresh Referral and Tracking Log and provide the information to your CBL.
- CBL: Provide the CalFresh Referral and Tracking Log and collaborate with the P&A agency for dispersing resources to families.

FAMILY MAINTENANCE (FM) FAMILIES UNDER FAMILY PRESERVATION (FP):

For families with open FP services, check in with the family and reach out to assigned FP agency/In-Home Outreach Counselor (IHOC) to coordinate securing food resources for impacted families. Agencies can utilize their discretionary funds to purchase food for their FP families in the amount of their current CalFresh benefit amounts. In addition, agencies can connect families to other available resources such as:

- Food banks/pantries
- Faith-based organizations
- Community Food drives
- Help families create grocery lists, budget for food and provide transportation
- Accompany families to stores or food banks to support easy access to food

Agencies are prepared to offer emotional and practical support through parent support groups, crisis line information and continued engagement during home visits to reduce stress and promote family resilience and stability.

STOP FUNDS



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As a payor of last resort, STOP is ready to expedite requests which support families losing their CalFresh benefits. CSWs can submit STOP fund requests for TAY/SILP and other clients on their caseload that are not under FM or under FM- FP.

- All STOP requests must include proof of the current CalFresh benefit amount for the client. If clients do not have proof of current benefit amounts, CSWs may base the request amount using established CalFresh participant benefit amounts on the [attached CalFresh table](#).
- SILP/TAY clients qualify to receive checks directly in the amount of the missed CalFresh benefits.
- Families cannot receive direct payments to replace their CalFresh benefits as direct payments count as income which could push the family beyond the CalFresh income limit.
 - For these families, STOP can instead provide separate indirect payments for either LATE rent or LATE utilities.
 - Each payment cannot exceed the amount of the lost monthly CalFresh benefit.

FOR SILP/TAY CLIENTS:

CSWs can submit a STOP reimbursement request for food or groceries for each month of lost CalFresh benefit. Each monthly payment amount cannot exceed the lost monthly CalFresh benefit.

- The 5540 must only reflect a single monthly payment amount.
 - For example, if the lost CalFresh benefit is \$200 per month, the 5540 can include up to \$200 for food for that month.
 - A new STOP request is needed for every month of CalFresh benefits not received by the client.
- However, reimbursement for more than a single month may be combined into a single STOP request if the client has missed more than a single month of CalFresh benefits and a STOP reimbursement request was not submitted for the missed months of benefits.
- Check the category of "Other" near the bottom of the 5540 and show "Food" or "Groceries" as the requested item.
- The STOP justification form must contain a statement such as: "Due to the sudden loss of CalFresh benefits, the client is in need of immediate assistance to purchase food."
- Checks will be sent directly to the SILP client(s), so please be sure to include the CORRECT mailing address.
 - Tax IDs are not required for direct checks to clients.
- NOTE: CSWs are responsible for collecting receipts which show that STOP funding has been used to pay for groceries (alcohol and cigarettes are ineligible).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FM Families:

CSWs can submit a STOP reimbursement request for each month of lost CalFresh benefit. Each monthly payment amount cannot exceed the lost monthly CalFresh benefit. For Families, the STOP payment will be sent to the landlord or utility company for LATE rent or a LATE utility payment.

- The 5540 must only reflect a single monthly payment amount.
 - For example, if the lost CalFresh benefit is \$200 per month, the 5540 can include up to \$200 for that month.
 - A new STOP request is needed for every month of CalFresh benefits not received by the client.
- However, reimbursement for more than a single month may be combined into a single STOP request if the client has missed more than a single month of CalFresh benefits and a STOP reimbursement request was not submitted for the missed months of benefits.



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- The STOP justification form must contain a statement such as: "Due to the sudden loss of CalFresh benefits, the client's income has been reduced. The client needs immediate assistance to . . . [pay LATE rent or LATE utility bills]"
- STOP rent requests must include a copy of the lease, plus a current W-9 for the landlord (the W-9 signature must be within the past twelve months).
- **STOP rent payments limited to the CalFresh monthly benefit amount are likely to be partial payments. Please be sure to notify your clients to pay the balance owing.**
- Utility requests must include a copy of the utility bill with the client's home address.
- Checks will be sent directly to the landlord or utility company, so please be sure to include the CORRECT mailing address.

Please send your questions to DCFS STOP FM/ER Families STOPFD@dcfs.lacounty.gov

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We have attached the following to this FYI

- [Faith Based Emergency Food Distribution and a list of food resources that can be shared with families.](#)
- [CalFresh Benefits Table](#)

CBSD staff and contracted P&A and FP agencies are available to assist staff to help support families.

If you have any questions, please contact the following CBSD Program Managers:

For Prevention and Aftercare:

Marcela Pizarro, pizarm@dcfs.lacounty.gov

For Family Preservation:

Lorraine Alexander, mezanl@dcfs.lacounty.gov

For STOP:

Lorna Schill, schill@dcfs.lacounty.gov

For Faith Based:

Dominique Robinson, robind@dcfs.lacounty.gov

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If you have any questions regarding this release, please email your question to:

Policy@dcfs.lacounty.gov