



CalFresh: SSI/SSP Recipients

California expanded CalFresh in June 2019

Prior to June 1, 2019, SSI/SSP recipients were ineligible to CalFresh. These recipients are now eligible to apply, and receive benefits if otherwise qualified. Regular CalFresh rules will apply to these applicants. SSI/SSP recipients are also now eligible to enroll in tribal commodities programs if they wish to participate in their tribe's program in place of CalFresh.

SSI/SSP recipients are elderly and/or disabled for CalFresh. This means they are categorically eligible, so there is no gross income test for the household. Income limits do still apply, but expenses are considered before looking at program eligibility.

Will SSI/SSP income be counted?

SSI/SSP income will count in our CalFresh budgets as unearned income for determining benefits. There is no cap on shelter expenses such as rent and mortgage for these households. Medical deductions paid out-of-pocket can be used to offset income in the budget.

What type of medical deductions are allowed?

Medical deductions are only allowed for those who are over 60 years of age or disabled.

- Eye glasses, contact lenses and optometry
- Dentures, hearing aids and prosthetics
- Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications
- Medicare premiums
- Medical and/or dental care provided by certified practitioners
- Hospitalizations or outpatient treatment and home nursing care
- Health/hospitalization insurance premiums and co-pays
- Long Term Care (LTC) insurance premiums
- Prescribed medical supplies/equipment
- Service animal expenses including food and vet bills
- Home health care/medical Lifeline services
- Cost of transportation to doctor, pharmacy or other medical appointment
- Cost of lodging to obtain medical treatment or services
- Cost of maintaining an attendant due to age, illness or infirmity
- Cost of meals for attendant
- Transportation to/from dependent care facility/provider.

All costs listed must be paid for by the customer, and cannot be used if paid for by Medi-Cal, Medicare, or other health insurance coverage.



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Expansion Plans

In order for Social Services to handle the influx of applications anticipated for the June 1, 2019 change, special plans are in place. The certification period for these new SSI/SSP-only households will be staggered per a set schedule in order to ensure county offices are not flooded with required reports for all these cases at once.

For households that are applying in May 2019 and include SSI/SSP recipients as well as other people who do not receive SSI benefits, the application will be processed per regular May 2019 eligibility rules. The SSI member will be added later when required.

When will SSI/SSP household members be added to existing CalFresh cases?

SSI/SSP income will count in the budget for CalFresh. In order to help households that would have case benefits decreased or stopped due to the addition of an existing household member's SSI income, the state has created a new Nutritional Benefit program to ensure they still receive food assistance. We must add the SSI recipient as an aided member to an existing case when:

- There is a mandatory report such as SAR 7 or Recertification interview
- The household voluntarily elects to have the SSI recipient added
- When any other household composition change is reported (such as someone moving into or out of the home).

What is the Nutrition Benefit (NB) Program?

The NB program is a California funded program that will be granted on an EBT card, just like CalFresh. There will be two types of NB: Supplemental (SNB) and Transitional (TNB). The only cases eligible to SNB and TNB will be cases that have a known SSI recipient in their household who was excluded from receiving benefits at the time of the expansion.

Supplemental Nutritional Benefits (SNB)

- SNB will be issued in tandem with CalFresh benefits to households that have had their CalFresh benefits due to the addition of an SSI recipient and their income to the case.

Transitional Nutritional Benefits (TNB)

- TNB will be issued as the sole benefit to households that are discontinued from CalFresh due to the addition of an SSI recipient and their income to the case.

Both TNB and SNB amounts are set by a table based on the total household size and the number of SSI recipients added to the case. SNB can range anywhere from \$70 to a maximum of \$468. TNB ranges from a minimum of \$115 to a maximum of \$440. The amount will be reviewed with the customer by their eligibility worker.