



# CASH FOR GROCERIES

A FJUHS DISTRICT INITIATIVE

1 in 2 students in FJUHS DISTRICT qualify to receive up to **\$950** per month for a family of four



**Free EBT debit card** for groceries



A family of four could receive **up to \$950 every month** for groceries



It takes just a couple of minutes to **check your eligibility and apply**

## HOW IT WORKS:



### Submit application

- On your school campus
- Online
- By Phone
- In-Person at OC SSA office
- By Mail



### Get money

If approved, you will receive an EBT card for groceries within **30 days.**



### Buy groceries

EBT cards work in most food markets, farmers' markets and online such as Northgate, Vons, Walmart, Albertson's, and Amazon.

**Apply today**

[www.benefitscal.com](http://www.benefitscal.com)

Confidential, safe, and can take less than 30 minutes.



Scan me for questions and to apply

Questions? Contact OC SSA at 1-800-281-9799 between 6:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.





# CASH FOR GROCERIES

A FJUHSD INITIATIVE

## CALFRESH FAQs

CalFresh is the California implementation of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which also funds free lunches at schools and WIC and helps people purchase healthy foods. The program issues monthly electronic benefits on an EBT card that can be used at most grocery stores, farmers' markets, and even online!

### Who should apply for CalFresh?

1 in 2 FJUHSD student families are eligible for CalFresh. Take a moment to check your eligibility by applying online today. OC Social Services Agency will call you within a week or two for an eligibility interview.

Some of the core requirements include:

- Resident of California
- Proof of any income
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident. CalFresh does not affect immigration status when you apply.
- Families with mixed immigration status are eligible

### How much will I get?

The amount received on your EBT card will depend on your eligibility (i.e. household size, income, etc.). Low-income families of four people could receive up to \$950.

### How do I apply for CalFresh?

You can apply for CalFresh online, by phone, mail, fax, or in person. Your name, address, and signature. The application process may take up to 30 days. The fastest way to apply for CalFresh benefits is online at [www.benefitscal.com](http://www.benefitscal.com).

Other ways to apply :

- Phone: (800) 281-9799 between 6:30AM - 8PM
- In person: Use our [office locator](#) to apply near you
- Visit [Orange County SSA's website](#) to download a CalFresh application to submit by mail or fax:
  - Mail: P.O. Box 70003 Anaheim, CA 92825-9922
  - Fax: (714) 645-3489



## What can I buy with CalFresh?

CalFresh allows those who qualify to buy food at local grocery stores or farmers' markets and online through retailers such as Northgate Market, Stater Bros, Albertsons, Vons, Amazon, Food 4 Less, and Walmart.

## Does someone in my family need to be employed or have income to receive CalFresh?

No, employment is not an eligibility requirement and there is no minimum income requirement. You may receive CalFresh if you earn money from a job, receive unemployment benefits, or receive child support.

## Can I receive CalFresh if I own a home, car, or a savings account?

Yes. CalFresh is based on income, not assets. You can own a home, car, savings account, or retirement account and still qualify for CalFresh.

## Can my child be eligible for CalFresh benefits if I am not a U.S. citizen?

Children in mixed immigration status households may be eligible for CalFresh benefits.

## How long will my benefits last?

On average about 12 months. Different households have different benefit periods. You can renew your benefits as long as you still meet the requirements.

## How do I keep my benefits going?

To keep getting CalFresh benefits, you must “recertify” or renew your eligibility and complete all reporting requirements. The CalFresh office is required to send CalFresh recipients a notice giving you enough time to recertify before your CalFresh benefits stop. This notice will include the due date and instructions for recertifying.

**Note:** There is also a Semi-Annual report.

If you've missed your due date to recertify, you will need to reapply for CalFresh using the full application, available at [www.benefitscal.com](http://www.benefitscal.com).

If you are expecting your notice and you haven't received it, contact Orange County SSA, (800) 281-9799.

## When will I receive CalFresh benefits?

Your county has 30 days to approve or deny your case. Some people with very low income can get expedited services, and their cases should be processed in 3 days. If it's been more than two weeks and you haven't gotten any mail or phone calls from the Orange County SSA office, or you want to contact the Orange County SSA office, call (800) 281-9799.

## What documents do I need to submit with my application?

These documents are usually required to get CalFresh:

- A copy of your ID
- Proof of any income
- Proof of immigration status (for non-citizens)

These documents are optional but can increase your benefit amount:

- Proof of housing expenses
- Proof of child support that you pay
- Proof of child/dependent care that you pay for
- If you are 60+ or disabled, proof of medical expenses

## Will CalFresh affect my taxes?

No. You are not required to report CalFresh Benefits on your taxes.

## Is CalFresh welfare?

CalFresh is NOT welfare. CalFresh is the California implementation of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which also funds free lunches at schools and WIC.

## Does someone in my family need to be employed or have income to receive CalFresh?

No, employment is not an eligibility requirement and there is no minimum income requirement. You may receive CalFresh if you earn money from a job, receive unemployment benefits, or receive child support.



## Do I have to repay the benefits I receive from CalFresh?

No, you do not need to repay any benefits, as long as you meet the requirements. This program is to assist families.

## What are Proof of Income documents?

Proof income documents examples:

- Pay Stubs
- Unemployment benefits
- Bank Statements
- Tax Returns
- Employment Verification Letters

## What if I'm not a U.S. citizen?

You can still apply! Children in mixed immigration status households may be eligible for CalFresh benefits. Take a moment to start your application to see if you can get CalFresh: [www.benefitscal.com](http://www.benefitscal.com)

CalFresh is safe to use for you and your family!

Getting CalFresh will not affect your immigration status or your chances of getting legal permanent residency in the future. For more information about immigration and public benefits, visit [keepyourbenefits.org](http://keepyourbenefits.org) or text the word benefits to (650) 376-8006. You'll be able to use a free immigration screening tool from the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo. You'll be asked a few general questions and get specific guidance. The tool is anonymous and confidential.

## What are Proof of Immigration status documents?

When providing your proof of status to receive CalFresh benefits, you can provide a copy of your green card (both sides), a copy of your most recent paperwork for a U Visa, T Visa, Asylum, Refugee or Parolee status, or VAWA petition.

Naturalized U.S. Citizens may be asked to provide a copy of their US passport or naturalization papers. Important: If you are only applying for other people in your household, you don't have to provide proof of your immigration status.

## Is CalFresh different from Medi-Cal?

Yes, CalFresh is for food assistance, and Medi-Cal is for medical assistance. You can apply for both through OC Social Services Agency.

## CalFresh Ambassadors by High School

CalFresh Ambassadors are available to clarify any questions in this FAQ and can assist with starting your CalFresh application. Assistant Principals of Pupil Services (APPS) are considered CalFresh Ambassadors for their respective school sites.

Buena Parks Brian Cuevas, [bcuevas@fjuhsd.org](mailto:bcuevas@fjuhsd.org)  
Fullerton Union Leticia Gonzalez, [lgonzalez@fjuhsd.org](mailto:lgonzalez@fjuhsd.org)  
La Habra Betty Vutang, [bvutang@fjuhsd.org](mailto:bvutang@fjuhsd.org)  
La Vista Daphne Sloggett, [dsloggett@fjuhsd.org](mailto:dsloggett@fjuhsd.org)  
Sonora Jina Jackson, [jjackson@fjuhsd.org](mailto:jjackson@fjuhsd.org)  
Sunny Hills Peter Karavedas, [pkaravedas@fjuhsd.org](mailto:pkaravedas@fjuhsd.org)  
Troy Alison Willis, [awillis@fjuhsd.org](mailto:awillis@fjuhsd.org)

## "Public Charge" Information

Public Charge has caused valid confusion for non-citizen individuals and families using public benefits. CalFresh has no impact on immigration status and is safe for all families. Please visit [Informed Immigrant](#) for correct information regarding this issue or contact the Orange County office at (800) 281-9799.

We are here to help! More information can be found on [fjuhsdfoodservices.org](http://fjuhsdfoodservices.org) or contact your high school's Assistant Principal.

**Apply today**

[www.benefitscal.com](http://www.benefitscal.com)

