

CalFresh Program Changes

What CalFresh Participants Need to Know

House of Representatives (H.R.) 1 was signed into law on July 4, 2025. H.R. 1 makes significant changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), locally known as the CalFresh Program.



These changes include:

- More CalFresh recipients will need to work to keep their benefits;
- Many lawfully present immigrants will no longer qualify for CalFresh;
- There will be changes to which CalFresh households will be eligible to receive the State Utility Assistance Subsidy (SUAS) to receive Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) deduction.

These changes will be implemented at different times, upon policy release from the California Department of Social Services and System automation. Impacted households may experience a reduction or termination of benefits.

More information on these changes is provided below.

Changes to Issuance of State Utility Assistance Subsidy (SUAS) to allow Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) Deduction

Beginning November 1, 2025, the State will implement a change in who will receive the SUAS in order to receive the SUA. This change may reduce or terminate some households' CalFresh benefits.

Changes to Issuance of SUAS to allow SUA Deduction (cont.)

Only CalFresh households that include an elderly (60 years or older) or disabled member and are not paying for heat or cooling utility expenses separate from their shelter expense, will qualify for the SUAS payment, which qualifies households for the SUA, if the household meets other eligibility criteria.

CalFresh households that do not include an elderly and/or disabled family member will receive SUA deduction if they have heating or cooling expenses separate from their shelter expense. Therefore, CalFresh eligibility for these households may be terminated or benefits reduced upon completion of their renewal. To remain eligible to the SUA deduction, households must report if they are paying for heating or cooling utility expenses separate from their rent/mortgage.

For new households, this change will take effect at application beginning November 1, 2025. For existing households, this change will take effect at the next renewal.

KEY INFORMATION:

If the CalFresh household does not include an elderly and/or disabled member, benefits may be reduced or discontinued if the household was receiving the SUAS payment/SUA allowance.

What Can Customers Do:

- Keep contact information updated to receive important notices.
- Make sure to report if you are paying for heating or cooling utility expenses separate from your shelter expense.

Customers May Get More Information By:

- Visiting our website and following our social media channels for updates;
- Calling the Customer Service Center at (866) 613-3777; or
- Visiting a local Department of Public Social Services office.