

CalFresh Guide

STUDENT EDITION



Outline: What's Here?

- ▶ **Benefits:**
 - ▶ Why apply?
- ▶ **Eligibility:**
 - ▶ Is this really worth my time?
- ▶ **Application Checklist & Instructions:**
 - ▶ *How do I start?*
- ▶ **Other Resources:**
 - ▶ What else is out there?



(Many) Benefits



JUMP

3/19

▶ Food

- ▶ Up to \$281/mo for groceries
- ▶ Farmers' Markets match up to \$10 of EBT
- ▶ Imperfect Produce discounts

▶ Transportation

- ▶ Discounted Unlimited Lifeline MUNI pass (\$40/mo)
- ▶ Annual JUMP membership (\$5/1st yr)
- ▶ Clipper START

▶ Fun and More

- ▶ Free/discounted admission to Cal Academy, Exploratorium, and more!
- ▶ California Lifeline Phone Service (discounts on phone services)
- ▶ Discounted Amazon Prime (\$5.99/mo)
- ▶ Discounted internet (providers vary)

▶ [Click here for more!](#)



market match

IMPERFECT[™]
p r o d u c e



amazon Prime

exploratorium[®]



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

Eligibility: Quick and Dirty



4/19

- ▶ **Many students are eligible so don't write yourself off too quickly!**
 - ▶ Income and student requirements can be confusing, but we'll walk you through it
- ▶ Common reasons students are not eligible
 - ▶ PHD/MSTP Stipends
 - ▶ Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) Stipends
 - ▶ Nurse Corp Scholarship HRSA Stipends
 - ▶ International Student (Must be US Citizen or a legal permanent resident)
- ▶ **If you don't apply, you won't know if you qualify**
- ▶ Sure you are ineligible? Skip to the end for available resources

Eligibility: Nitty Gritty

5/19

- ▶ 3 Major Criteria
 - ▶ US Citizenship or Permanent Legal Residence (PLR)
 - ▶ Income at or under chart based on household
 - ▶ Fulfill at least ONE student requirement



Eligibility: Citizenship or PLR

- ▶ You'll need documentation to prove this
 - ▶ Passport
 - ▶ PLR Card
 - ▶ See checklist for more



Eligibility: Income Limits



- ▶ "How broke do I need to be to qualify?"
 - ▶ Depends on your "household" size
 - ▶ Unless you are living with a spouse or your kids, household size=1
 - ▶ Limits shown below for monthly *gross* income (before taxes)

Family Size	1	2	3	4	5
Income Limit	\$2266	\$3052	\$3840	\$4626	\$5412

Eligibility: Student Requirements

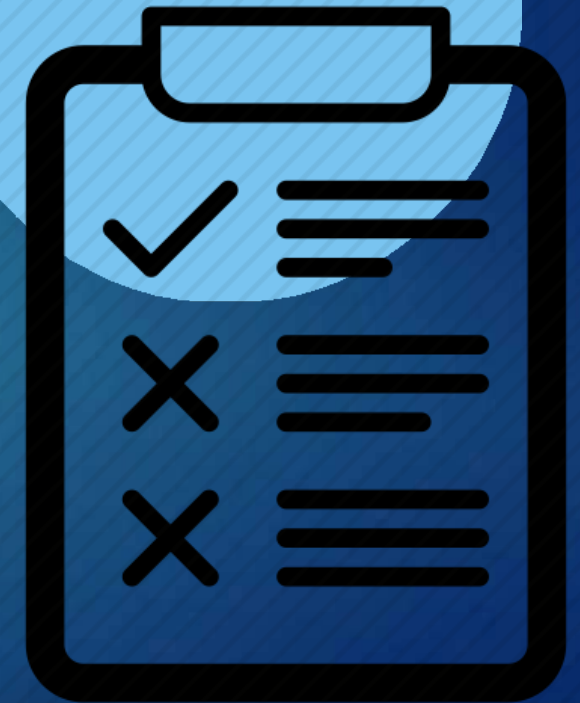
8/19

- ▶ Many students satisfy one or more of these.
 - ▶ Only need to satisfy **ONE** to be eligible
- ▶ Eligibility for Federal Work Study is a popular option
- ▶ Financial Aid can verify and document your eligibility. You will need this as proof of eligibility to satisfy this requirement
 - ▶ [Click here to request School Documentation for CalFresh](#)
- ▶ **Eligibility is different than actually working.** (i.e. Working 20hrs/wk is a separate requirement.)



Eligibility: Specifics

- ▶ Satisfy at least **ONE** of the following:
 - ▶ **Approved for federal work-study**
 - ▶ Work at least 20hrs/wk on average
 - ▶ Full-time student with a child under 12
 - ▶ Part-time student with a child under 6
 - ▶ Part-time student with child 6-11 without adequate childcare
 - ▶ Receiving CalWORKs
 - ▶ Enrolled in CalFresh employment and training
 - ▶ Do not plan to register for next school term



Application Checklist: Overview

10/19

- ▶ Seems like you're eligible? Here's what you'll need:
 - ▶ 1. Proof of residence (lease, copy of bills with your name and address)
 - ▶ 2. [School Documentation for CalFresh](#)
 - ▶ May need pay stubs depending on case worker
 - ▶ 3. Enrollment Verification
 - ▶ 4. Other proof to satisfy requirements



Application Checklist: Specifics

11/19

- ▶ Collect anything below that applies to you:
 - ✓ ID card
 - ✓ Birth certificate for children
 - ✓ LPR card (Lawful Permanent Resident)
 - ✓ US Passport
 - ✓ Social Security Card
 - ✓ Proof of income from last 30 days
 - ✓ Rent/Mortgage
 - ✓ Child care Bills
 - ✓ Court Ordered Child Support
 - ✓ Medical bills if elderly or disabled



Instructions: Overview

12/19

- ▶ Four Steps to Benefits
 - ▶ Create an Account (~5 mins)
 - ▶ Upload documents (~10mins)
 - ▶ Phone Interview (~10-20mins)
 - ▶ Approval /Denial Letter (3-30 days)



[Click here to link to the application website!](#)

Instructions: (1) Create an Account

13/19

- ▶ Step One: Create an account at mybenefitscalwin.org

The screenshot shows the MyBenefits CalWIN website. At the top left is the logo. At the top right are links for Sign In, Help, FAQs, Contact, and Language. The main banner features a group of diverse children and a woman. The text on the banner reads: "Get medical, food and cash assistance now. MyBenefits CalWIN is the fast, easy way for California residents to get the help they need." Below this text is a green "Create An Account" button, which is circled in green. To the right of the banner is a "Welcome Back!" message with a "Sign In" button. Below the banner, under the heading "I would like to...", there are four service tiles: "See if I Am Eligible" (with a checkmark icon), "Apply for Benefits" (with a document icon), "Report Changes" (with a document icon), and "Renew Benefits" (with a calendar icon). Each tile includes a brief description of the service.

[Watch a video on how to create an account and start your application](#)

Instructions: (2) Upload Documents

14/19

- ▶ 1. Citizenship Verification
 - ▶ Passport
 - ▶ Birth Certificate
 - ▶ Green Card
- ▶ 2. Income Verification
 - ▶ Financial Award Letter
 - ▶ Work study verification OR recent pay stubs
- ▶ 3. Student Verification
 - ▶ Enrollment Verification
- ▶ **Provide good contact number and best time(s) for phone interview**



Instructions: (3) Interview

15/19



- ▶ **Missing your Interview will result in denial!**
- ▶ Within 3 days you will receive a text/call to schedule an interview
 - ▶ Over the phone
 - ▶ While many organizations are working remotely the only option for the interviews will be over the phone
- ▶ Your interview must be completed within 30 days of application



Instructions: (3) Interview Preview

16/19

- ▶ Be prepared to answer the following questions:
 - ▶ Verify name, address, and SSN
 - ▶ How much is rent + utilities?
 - ▶ What bank do you use?
 - ▶ How much money is in your checking and savings?
 - ▶ Do you receive financial help from parents or other source?
 - ▶ Do you have loans outside of school?
 - ▶ Are you a full-time or part-time student?



Instructions: (4) Approval/Denial

17/19

- ▶ Letter sent via mail within 3-30 days
 - ▶ No word within two weeks?
 - ▶ Call HAS Medi-Cal @ 415-558-4700
- ▶ **Approved**
 - ▶ Receive up to \$281/mo
 - ▶ EBT Benefits card will be mailed and PIN will be mailed separately
 - ▶ Complete SAR 7 Eligibility Status Report Form or RRR (Recertification for CalFresh Benefits) to maintain benefits
- ▶ **Denied**
 - ▶ Consider appealing
 - ▶ Contact the Student Financial Services Office if you are unsure why you were denied



Instructions: (4) Approval/Denial

▶ SAR 7 Eligibility Status Report Form

- ▶ Reporting changes
- ▶ Most people will need to report their income and living situation in the 6th month of their yearly CalFresh certification period.

▶ Instructions for SAR 7 found [here](#)

▶ RRR- Recertification for CalFresh Benefits

- ▶ Occurs once a year and requires an interview to determine continued eligibility.
- ▶ The interview will entail reporting any changes of address, family size, children's school attendance, employment, income, property and expenses.

▶ Instructions for RRR found [here](#)



Instructions: (5) Using my Benefits

18/19

- ▶ Monthly benefits are added at the beginning of each month
- ▶ Use your EBT card at participating grocery stores for FOOD only
 - ▶ Non-food items (i.e. household goods) will be paid for with the remaining balance
- ▶ Participating stores will often indicate if EBT is accepted
- ▶ Find participating stores here: [EBT Locator](#)



Other Resources

19/19

- ▶ Student Financial Services
 - ▶ [Click here to request School Documentation for CalFresh](#)
- ▶ Basic Needs and Food Security
 - ▶ Student Food Market



Student
Financial Services
Student Academic Affairs



SF·MARIN
FOOD BANK