

CalFresh Guide

STUDENT EDITION



Outline: What's Here?

2/19

- ▶ **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 \$292/mo for groceries
- ▶ Farmers' Markets match up to \$10 of EBT
- ▶ Imperfect Produce discounts

▶ Transportation

- ▶ Annual JUMP membership (\$5/1st yr)
- ▶ Electronic Bike and Scooter rentals

▶ 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



amazonPrime

explO[®]ratorium



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

6/19

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



Eligibility: Income Limits

7/19

- ▶ "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	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$



Eligibility: Student Requirements

8/19

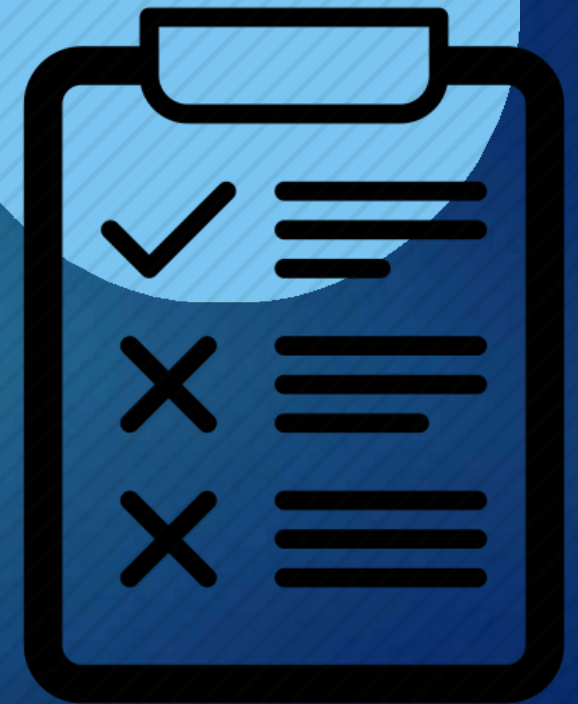
- ▶ Many students satisfy one or more of these.
 - ▶ Only need to satisfy **ONE** to be eligible
- ▶ Eligibility for Federal Work Study is a popular option
- ▶ Financial Aid can verify and document your eligibility. You will need this as proof of eligibility to satisfy this requirement
 - ▶ [Click here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



Eligibility: Specifics

9/19

- ▶ Satisfy at least **ONE** of the following:
 - ▶ **Approved for and accepted 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
- ✓ Childcare 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)

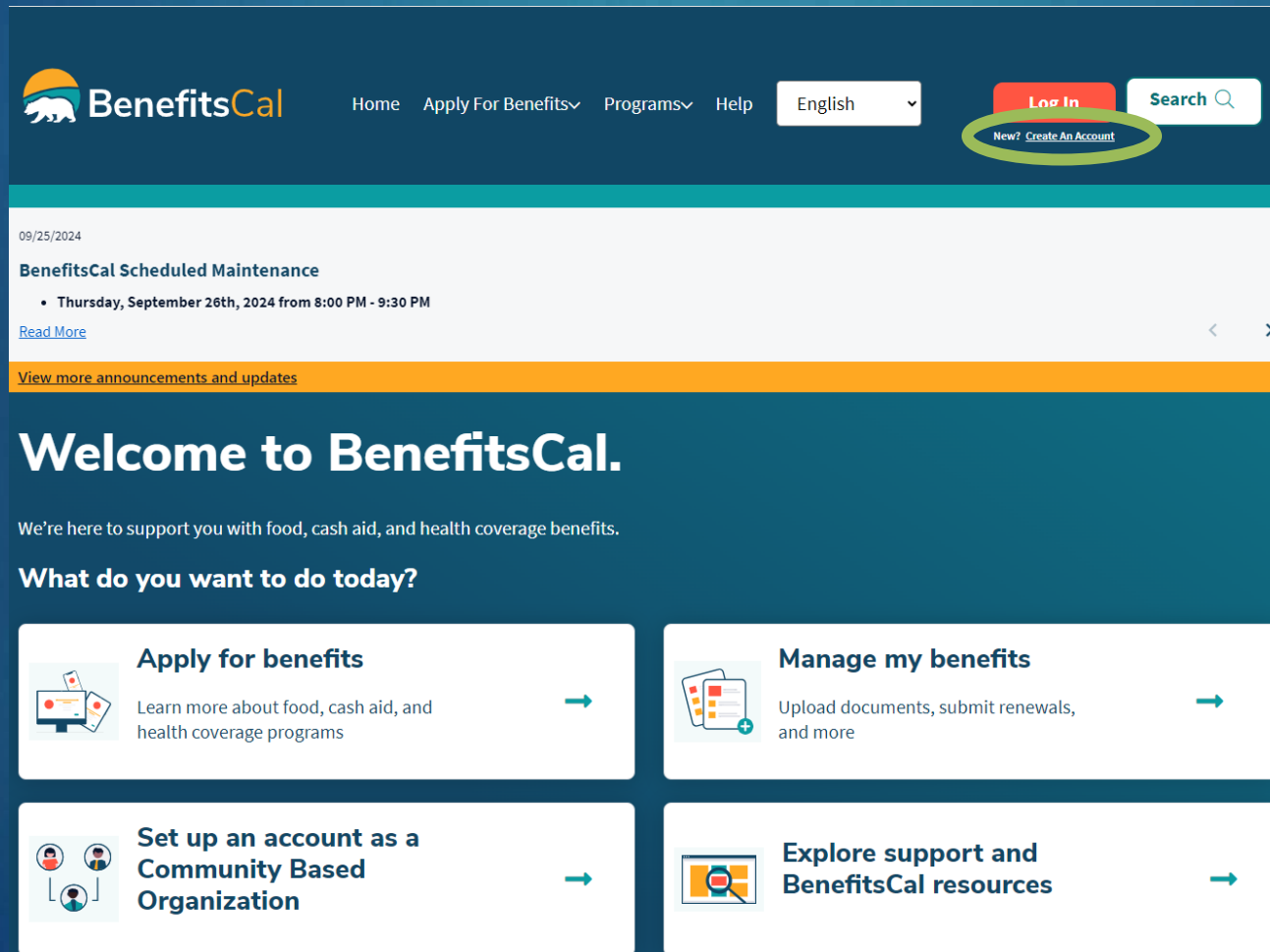


[Click here to link to the application website!](#)

Instructions: (1) Create an Account

13/19

- Step One: Create an account at <https://benefitscal.com>



[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 HSA Medi-Cal @ (855) 355-5757
 - ▶ Email finaid@ucsf.edu so we can follow up
- ▶ **Approved**
 - ▶ Receive up to \$292/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 finaid@ucsf.edu



Instructions: (4) Approval/Denial

18/19

▶ **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