

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)  
CalFresh Program Guide**

**Household with Boarders/Destitute Households**

**Number**

**63-243**

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**Background:**

Individuals paying a reasonable amount for room and board will be excluded from the household when determining the household's eligibility and benefit level.

**Policy:**

**63-243.1 Income from Boarders (non-commercial):**

Payments from boarders will be treated as self-employed income

- The income from boarders will include all direct payments to the household for lodging and meals, including contributions to the household's shelter expenses.

Shelter expenses paid directly by boarders to someone outside the household will not be counted as income to the household.

- A foster care or ARC child is considered a boarder, but the foster care or ARC payment is not self-employment income.

Foster care or ARC payments are not counted as income, if the foster care or ARC boarder is not a member of the CalFresh household. For foster care and ARC payments see section [63-224.14](#)

**63-243.2 Boarders: Cost of Doing Business:**

After determining the income received from the boarders, exclude that portion of the boarder payment, which is a cost of doing business.

- The cost of doing business will be equal to any of the following procedures provided that the amount allowed as a cost of doing business will not exceed the payment the household receives from the boarder for lodging and meals. Payments for meals only will be income to the extent the payment exceeds the actual cost.
  - An amount which equals the maximum CalFresh allotment for the appropriate number of boarders; or
  - The actual documented cost of providing lodging and meals, if the actual cost exceeds the maximum CalFresh allotment for the appropriate number of boarders.
  - If actual costs are used, only separate and identifiable costs of providing lodging and meals to boarders will be excluded.

**63-243.3 Boarders: Deductible Expenses:**

The income from self-employment minus the cost of doing business will be added to other earned income and the earned income deduction will be applied to the total.

Shelter expenses the household actually incurs, even if the boarder contributes to the household for part of the household's shelter expenses, will be computed to determine if the household will receive a shelter deduction.

However, the shelter expenses will not include any shelter expenses paid directly by the boarder to a third party, such as to the landlord or utility company.

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**63-243.4 Destitute Households: Migrant or Seasonal Farm Workers:**

Migrant or seasonal farm worker households may have little or no income at the time of application and may be in need of immediate food assistance, even though they receive income at some other time during the month of application. Follow the procedures below to determine when migrant or seasonal farm worker households shall be considered destitute and therefore, entitled to expedited service and special income calculation procedures. **Households other than migrant or seasonal farm worker households will not be classified as destitute.**

**63.243.5 Destitute Households: Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker's Income at Application:**

Migrant or seasonal farm worker households, whose only income for the month of application was received prior to the date of application, and from a terminated source, will be considered destitute households and will be provided expedited service:

- If income is received on a monthly or more frequent basis, it will be considered as coming from a terminated source if it will not be received again from the same source during the balance of the month of application or during the following month.
- If income is normally received less often than monthly the non-receipt of income from the same source in the remainder of the month of application, or in the following month, is inappropriate to determine whether or not the income is terminated.

Therefore, for households that normally receive income less often than monthly, the income will be considered as coming from a terminated source if it will not be received in the month in which the next payment would normally be received.

- Households whose only income for the month of application is from a new source, will be considered destitute and will be provided expedited service if income of more than \$25 from the new source will not be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the date of application.

Income which is normally received on a monthly or more frequent basis will be considered to be from a new source if income of more than \$25 has not been received from that source within 30 days prior to the date the application was filed.

If income is normally received less often than monthly, it will be considered to be from a new source, if income of more than \$25 was not received within the last normal interval between payments.

Households may receive both income from a terminated source prior to the date of application and income from a new source after the date of application, and will still be considered destitute, if income of more than \$25 will **not** be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> day after the date of application and no other income will be received in the month of application.

- Destitute households will have their eligibility and level of benefits calculated for the month of application by considering only income which is received between the first of the month and the date of application. Any income from a new source that is anticipated after the date of application will be disregarded.

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**63-243.6 Travel Expenses Advances to Destitute Households:**

Some employers provide travel advances to cover the travel costs of new employees who must journey to the location of their new employment. To the extent that these payments are excluded as reimbursements, receipt of travel advances will not affect the determination of when a household is destitute.

However, if the travel advance is by written contract an advance on wages that will be subtracted from wages later earned by the employee, rather than a reimbursement, the wage advance will count as income. In addition, the receipt of a wage advance for the travel cost of a new employee will not affect the determination of whether subsequent payments from the employer are from a new source of income, nor whether a household will be considered destitute.

**63-243. 7 Destitute Households: Income from the Same Source:**

A household member who changes jobs but continues to work for the same employer will be considered as still receiving income from the same source.

A migrant farm worker's source of income will be considered to be the grower for whom the migrant is working at a particular point in time, and not the crew chief.

A migrant farm worker who travels with the same crew chief but moves from one grower to another will be considered to have moved from a terminated income source to a new source.

For migrant farm worker households, the above procedures will apply at initial application and at recertification, but only for the first month of each certification period. At recertification, income from a new source will be disregarded in the first month of the new certification period, if income of more than \$25 will **not** be received from this new source by the 10<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the date of the household's normal issuance cycle.

For seasonal farm worker households, the above procedures will only apply to the month of application when the household has a beginning month.

**Procedure:**

None

**References:**

[CalWORKS/CalFresh PG Letters No.358 Approved Relative Caregiver\(ARC\)](#)

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 11/30/2015

**Release Date:**

11/05/2015