

63-505

Disaster CalFresh Certification

63-505.1 Interviews

All Disaster CalFresh applicants must be interviewed in person. Online applicants will be instructed when submitting the Benefits CalWIN (BCW) application to go to the nearest FRC or LAC. They shall also be informed that an Express Lane is available for online applicants.

County Human Services Specialists (workers) will interview and determine eligibility. Volunteers or other designated non-county personnel may assist clients with preparing applications pending the approval by California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

To assist in the certification process, the county may use group sessions to explain household rights and responsibilities and how to complete the application. Non-county volunteers may assist with the certification process.

63-505.2 Application Disposition

The worker at the time of the interview will review the application and advise the household verbally and in writing whether the application was approved or denied and of their rights and responsibilities.

The worker will:

- Review with the applicant their Rights and Responsibilities listed on the [DFA 385](#);
- Advise the household of the civil and criminal penalties which may apply if a violation of the CalFresh rules is committed as explained in the [DFA 385](#);
- Inform the household they may be subject to a post-disaster review;
- Provide the address, telephone number and/or online application webpage (<https://www.MybenefitsCalWIN.org/>) where the household may apply for regular CalFresh;
- If the application is approved, the worker shall inform the household of the allotment amount, the length of the disaster benefit period, the proper use of EBT, and a manual notice of action;

If the Disaster CalFresh application is denied, the worker shall explain the basis for the denial verbally and in writing.

**63-505.3
Notices of
Action**

Household must be notified verbally and in writing of the approval/denial of the Disaster CalFresh via manual notice of action [DFA 390](#).

Households refusing to cooperate in completing the application will be denied benefits at the time of refusal.

**63-505.4
Certification
Period**

The certification period shall be either a half-month or a full month, whichever coincides with the disaster benefit period approved by CDSS.

Applicants are eligible to a one-time payment only during the disaster period.

**63-505.5
Extension of
the Disaster
Benefit
Period**

Disaster CalFresh will not be authorized or issued after the expiration of the designated benefit period unless the county has applied for and received FNS authorization for an extension of the disaster benefit period.

If the disaster benefit period is extended beyond the original designation, households that have already received emergency disaster benefits could be recertified and issued additional disaster benefits for the extended benefit period, if they still meet emergency eligibility criteria.

A household applying for Disaster CalFresh recertification must submit an application and be interviewed. At recertification, the worker will re-verify identity and residency if these items are now questionable or residency has changed.

**63-505.6
Benefit
Issuance
Timeframe**

If the household meets the Disaster CalFresh eligibility criteria in [63-506](#), the worker will authorize and issue the emergency CalFresh allotment.

The worker will provide the household an opportunity to obtain an allotment on the day of application, unless restrictions such as curfews make it impossible to meet this standard. In these situations, eligible households will be provided the opportunity to obtain allotments no later than the day following the date the application was filed.

**63-505.7
Benefit
Issuance
Allotment**

Disaster CalFresh Applicants

Issue the Disaster CalFresh Maximum monthly allotment for the household size.

CalFresh Recipients Applying for Disaster CalFresh Benefits

The emergency allotment will be determined on the basis of household size and emergency allotment issuance tables provided by CDSS.

Issue the difference between the household's monthly allotment already received, and the Disaster CalFresh maximum monthly allotment for the household size including sanctioned, previously ineligible non-citizens, ineligible students, and disqualified household members. Refer to [63-504.9](#) for information on Disaster CalFresh supplements (SDFSP).

**63-505.8
Transition to
Regular
CalFresh
Program**

Households wishing to continue to receive CalFresh benefits after the Disaster CalFresh period will be processed under CalFresh regulations:

Step	Action						
1	<p>The worker will request the household to complete the following forms:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="553 1060 1411 1491"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="553 1060 857 1150">If the household requests...</th> <th data-bbox="857 1060 1411 1150">The household will complete forms:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="553 1150 857 1272">Non-Assistance CalFresh</td> <td data-bbox="857 1150 1411 1272">CF 285</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="553 1272 857 1491">Public Assistance CalFresh</td> <td data-bbox="857 1272 1411 1491"> SAWS 2 PLUS <i>These joint applications forms may also be used for Non-Assistance CalFresh cases.</i> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	If the household requests...	The household will complete forms:	Non-Assistance CalFresh	CF 285	Public Assistance CalFresh	SAWS 2 PLUS <i>These joint applications forms may also be used for Non-Assistance CalFresh cases.</i>
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Non-Assistance CalFresh	CF 285						
Public Assistance CalFresh	SAWS 2 PLUS <i>These joint applications forms may also be used for Non-Assistance CalFresh cases.</i>						
2	<p>All CalFresh regulations apply when determining the ongoing CalFresh eligibility of households who have been issued Disaster CalFresh benefits.</p> <p>The worker will include the countable income the household received or will receive in the month of application for ongoing CalFresh and/or any anticipated income the household and worker are reasonably certain will be received.</p>						

3	<p>Households that applied for both, Disaster CalFresh and CalFresh during the Disaster CalFresh certification period and received Disaster CalFresh benefits will not qualify to receive regular CalFresh benefits during the Disaster CalFresh certification period. These households may qualify to receive CalFresh benefits effective the day after the end of the Disaster CalFresh period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application date for households that applied for regular CalFresh during the Disaster CalFresh period will be the day after the last day of the Disaster CalFresh period. • Households that applied for regular CalFresh after the end of the Disaster CalFresh certification period will have the actual date of application as the regular CalFresh Application Date. <p>In both instances,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the household's CalFresh allotment without regard to any benefits issued during the disaster period. • The regular CalFresh allotment will be prorated from the date of application rounded down to the nearest lower whole dollar. • If the application date is after the 15th day of the month, the household will receive the following month allotment at the same time.
4	<p>Add the household's CalFresh benefits on the same EBT card as the one used to issue disaster CalFresh benefits.</p>

Note: Applications for ongoing benefits received in a LAC will be reviewed by the LAC worker and immediately forwarded to the appropriate FRC for immediate assignment to an intake worker.
