

CalFresh Program Guide Letter # 590

Subject **DISASTER CALFRESH INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS CHANGE FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2014 AND DISASTER ALLOTMENT REDUCTION DUE TO THE ENDING OF ARRA EFFECTIVE 11/01/2013**

Purpose To inform staff of changes to the CalFresh:

- Disaster Income Eligibility Standards as a result of the annual Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) adjustment for FFY 2014; and
- Maximum Disaster CalFresh allotment reduction effective 11/01/2013 due to the end of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) allotment increase provision.

Reference All County Information Notices No. I-62-13 and I-63-13

Effective Date

- October 1, 2013: Disaster Income Eligibility Standards COLA
- November 1, 2013: Disaster CalFresh allotment reduction

Background **Effective October 1, 2013**, the CalFresh standard deduction, the maximum net monthly income limit and the maximum excess shelter deduction changed due to the SNAP COLA for FFY 2014.

As a result, the Disaster CalFresh Income Eligibility Standards, which includes the standard deduction, the maximum net monthly income limit and the maximum excess shelter deduction, have also increased.

Effective November 1, 2013, the Maximum Disaster CalFresh allotment will decrease by 5.4 percent.

Under ARRA, the maximum SNAP allotments were raised by 13.6 percent of the June 2008 value and provided that benefits could not decline below this level. This provision of ARRA ends effective October 31, 2013. As a result, the November 1, 2013 maximum Disaster CalFresh allotment will decrease by 5.4 percent.

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Summary of Changes

- Effective October 1, 2013, the Disaster CalFresh Income Eligibility Standards are increasing due to the SNAP COLA. The Disaster CalFresh allotment for October 1, 2013 – October 31, 2013 is not changing.
- Effective November 1, 2013, the Maximum Disaster CalFresh allotment will decrease by 5.4 percent.

CalFresh Program Guide Updates

The Disaster CalFresh Guide Chapter 63-500 has been updated as follows:

CHAPTER/SECTION	SECTION TITLE	UPDATES
63-501.8	Disaster CalFresh Desk Aid	Updated desk aid with FFY 2014 Income Eligibility Standards
63-506.5	Income and Resource Test and Example	Updated Disaster CalFresh Income Eligibility Standards and allotments
		The maximum Disaster CalFresh allotment will be decreased effective 11/01/2013

Changes to the CalFresh Program Guide are noted with highlighted text.

Automation Impact

The changes were updated in the reference tables for the CalFresh COLA mass update run by the CalWIN project on 9/7/2013.

Other Programs Impact

No impact.

ACCESS Impact

ACCESS staff will provide updated information at the time of a disaster when households call to inquire about the application process, Disaster CalFresh eligibility, and Local Assistance Center (LAC) information.

Quality Control (QC) Impact

No impact.

Director Approval



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