

November 1, 2013

CalFresh Program Guide Letter #591

Subject CLARIFICATION OF CALFRESH MODIFIED CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY (MCE) REGULATIONS PART II

Purpose To provide additional clarification regarding certain household's eligibility to MCE and zero benefit cases.

Reference All County Information Notice I-50-13.

Effective Date Upon receipt.

Background Non-Assistance CalFresh (NACF) households whose gross income is at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or 200% of FPL when the household includes an elderly/disabled (E/D) member are eligible to MCE.

MCE Regulation Update CDSS provided the following clarification regarding MCE:

1. NACF households are not MCE eligible when there is a member who:
 - Has been disqualified for an Intentional Program Violation (IPV), or
 - Has failed to comply with work requirements, or
 - Has been convicted of a drug-related felony (disqualified drug felons as explained in [63-164.2](#)).
2. If the allotment for an MCE household with three or more members is zero benefits, the worker will deny or discontinue the case for exceeding the net income limit.

REMINDER: No issuance of less than \$10.00 will be made in the month of application regardless of MCE status, household size, or benefit proration. Refer to [63-251.2](#).

Continued on next page

CalFresh Program Guide Letter #591, Continued

CalFresh Program Guide Updates

The following CalFresh Program Guide sections have been revised:

Section	Updates
63-120.7	Clarified MCE eligibility as explained in this letter.
63-120.8	
63-120.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified MCE eligibility as explained in this letter. Updated information according to Semi-Annual Reporting (SAR) regulations.
63-120.10	Clarified MCE eligibility and minimum allotment of zero benefits as explained in this letter.
63-120.11	Added a narrative example of a household who include an IPV member.
63-120.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added example of an MCE eligible household that includes a drug felon. Moved examples of MCE evaluation for E/D households to new section 63-120.13.
63-120.13	New section including MCE evaluation of E/D households examples from 63-120.12 .
63-201.3	Updated section with SAR information.
63-254.7	Updated minimum allotment information as explained in this letter.
63-254.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changed section title from “Net Income Test Exceeds Maximum Levels at Application” to “Net Income Test Exceeds Maximum Levels.” Added CE and MCE households’ minimum allotment and zero benefit for three or more members denial or discontinuance action.
63-302.4	Clarified MCE eligibility as explained in this letter.
63-501.5	
63-1101.1	

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

Continued on next page

CalFresh Program Guide Letter #591, Continued

Automation Impact

Currently, CalWIN does not determine MCE eligibility and does not evaluate resources. The Human Services Specialist (HSS) will continue to follow BENDS 6258 to:

- Grant and issue the minimum allotment to an MCE eligible non-E/D or E/D household whose gross income is below 130% or 200% of FPL but over the Maximum Net Income limit (100% of FPL) as long as the household does not include a member who is work sanctioned, IPV disqualified or has been convicted of a drug-related felony; or
- Deny or discontinue an E/D household whose income is above 200% of FPL, passes the Net Income Test and its resources are above the limit of \$3,250.

NOTE: All regulations regarding eligibility for MCE for NACF cases will be implemented in CalWIN with Release 35 in November 2013.

Required Action

HSSs are required to evaluate and document each and every case for MCE at intake, recertification and when the household reports that their income is above 130% of FPL.

Refer to [63-120.7-13](#).

Other Programs Impact

No impact.

Quality Control Impact

Quality Control (QC) will cite the appropriate error when instructions in this material are not followed or are followed incorrectly.

Director Approval



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Wanne 11-1-13".

RICK WANNE, MA, MFT
Eligibility Operations Director

OA