

## CalFresh Program Guide Letter # 600

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**Subject** CALFRESH MODIFIED CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY (MCE) 200 PERCENT UPDATE

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**Purpose** To provide information and implementation instructions regarding a change in regulation for CalFresh Modified Categorical Eligibility (MCE) requirements.

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**Reference** All County Welfare Director Letter (ACWDL) dated June 30, 2014

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**Effective Date** July 1, 2014

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**Background** Assembly Bill (AB) 191 (Chapter 669, Statutes of 2013) implemented a program of Categorical Eligibility for CalFresh for households that included a member who received Medi-Cal.

The provisions of MCE for Medi-Cal recipients as outlined in AB 191 expired June 30, 2014.

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**Policy Change** With the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 855, effective July 1, 2014 **ALL** Non-Assistance CalFresh (NACF) households with gross income at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will be granted MCE if they receive the non-cash Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF/CalWORKs)/Maintenance of Effort (MOE)-funded service “Family Planning – PUB 275” brochure and meet all other conditions of eligibility.

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**Updated MCE Regulations** **ALL NACF households** will be granted MCE when the household receives the PUB 275 **and their gross income is at or below 200 percent of FPL** with the following exceptions. The household includes a member who:

- Has been disqualified for an Intentional Program Violation (IPV);
  - Has been convicted of a disqualifying drug-related felony ([63-164.2](#)); or
  - Has failed to comply with work requirements (the head of household). Refer to [63-165](#).
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## Updated MCE Regulations (continued)

When a NACF household is determined MCE the following regulations apply:

- The household's resources are not evaluated and
- The household is entitled to the following allotment even if the household's net income exceeds the maximum allowable for their household size:

If the household size is ...	Then the household is entitled to receive ...
1 or 2 members	At least the minimum allotment.
3 or more members	An allotment according to the household size as determined in the CalFresh Allotment Table (refer to <a href="#">63-1101.5</a> ).  If the allotment is zero, the case must be denied or discontinued for exceeding the CalFresh Net Income Limit.

Refer to

- [63-120.10](#), MCE Household Allotment
- [63-254.7](#), Minimum Monthly Allotment
- [63-1101.3](#) for the current 200 percent of FPL chart

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## Required Action

Prior to July 2014, NACF households were granted MCE status when the household included an elderly or disabled (E/D) member or a member who was receiving Medi-Cal, and their gross income was at or below 200 percent of FPL.

**Beginning July 1, 2014**, grant MCE status to all NACF households with gross income at or below 200 percent of FPL who received the PUB 275 and has no IPV, disqualified drug felon or work sanctioned members.

- MCE will be re-evaluated at application, recertification and when the household reports a change that triggers an action during the certification period.
- The MCE determination must be documented in Case Comments when MCE is evaluated and the case is approved, denied, or discontinued because the household is at or below, or exceeds 200 percent of FPL in the following order:

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## Required Action (continued)

1. The household's gross income is below, or exceeds 200 percent of FPL (the limit for the TANF-funded service);
2. The PUB 275 was provided; and
3. The MCE determination results (granted or not granted for initial application or MCE status removed when discontinuing a case).

Refer to [63-120.11, MCE Case Documentation](#)

- Follow [BEnDS #6868](#) (internal link) to grant MCE status to households without an E/D member until the change is implemented in CalWIN.

Refer to:

- [63-120.9 MCE Evaluation](#)
  - [63-120.12 and 13, MCE Determination Examples](#)
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## Income Reporting Threshold

The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) allow states the option to set their Income Reporting Threshold (IRT) to equal the gross income limit of the program that triggers categorical eligibility. The following table displays the different IRTs for various household types (refer to [63-271.2](#) and [63-283.3](#) for the definition of IRT):

Household Type	IRT Level
MCE	200%
Not MCE	130%
CE ( <i>PACF Households</i> )	CalWORKs IRT
Mixed Households ( <i>Some household members don't receive CalWORKs</i> )	2 IRTs ( <i>CalWORKs IRT, and CalFresh IRT for CalFresh only members</i> )

See Client Correspondence below.

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## Automation Impact

CalWIN was updated with Release 35 (CR6258) to evaluate, grant and document MCE for NACF households with income at or below 200% of FPL and include an E/D member.

Until the changes are implemented in CalWIN, follow [BEnDS #6868](#) (internal link) to grant MCE to NACF households whose gross income is at or below 200 percent of FPL which do not include an E/D member.

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**Client Correspondence** Information pertaining to the notification to MCE households of their IRT will be issued as soon as the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) provides guidance.

Follow [BEnDS #6868](#) to issue the correct IRT amount in the SAR 2.

**REMINDER:** The PUB 275 must be included in all application packets as required per [63-103.3](#) and [63-120.8.D](#).

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

**Other Programs Impact** No Impact.

**CalFresh Program Guide (CFPG) Updates** The following CalFresh Program Guide Sections have been revised:

Section	Updates
<a href="#">63-120.7-13</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated MCE information as explained in this letter and</li> <li>Deleted section 63-120.11 and incorporated into section 63-120.9</li> </ul>
<a href="#">63-203.19</a>	Updated MCE information as explained in this letter.
<a href="#">63-254.7</a>	
<a href="#">63-302.4</a>	
<a href="#">63-1101.1</a>	
<a href="#">63-1101.6</a>	New section: CalFresh IRT Table
<a href="#">63-1102.2</a>	Updated the Assistance Standards Table
<a href="#">63-271.2</a> <a href="#">63-283.2-4, 7</a>	Updated IRT for MCE households is 200% of FPL

Changes to the CalFresh Program Guide are noted with **highlighted text**. SN 14-01 is now obsolete and has been removed from the CFPG.

**Director Approval**



**RICK WANNE, MA, MFT**  
Eligibility Operations Director

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