

Conversation Starters

TIPS AND IDEAS FOR DISCUSSING CALFRESH WITH SSI/SSP RECIPIENTS



Exciting Changes to CalFresh

- There is a big change rolling out to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and State Supplementary Payment (SSP) recipients this summer. Starting in June, SSI/SSP recipients will now be eligible to receive CalFresh benefits.
- Now more than one million additional Californians are eligible for CalFresh. If you're newly eligible, don't miss out on this benefit that will help you get the food you need! There are enough benefits for every eligible resident.

What to Tell SSI Recipients

- Living in San Francisco can be expensive. CalFresh is a program that can boost your budget and make it easier to buy healthy food.
- You can now apply for CalFresh benefits, which are benefits you can spend at your local grocery store, neighborhood market, or farmers markets throughout San Francisco.
- You can also use your CalFresh benefits to purchase hot meals from restaurants throughout San Francisco and double your money to buy food at farmers markets.
- It's hard to say how much you might actually receive each month, but SSI/SSP recipients could receive anywhere from \$15–\$192 each month. The amount you receive is based on several factors, including your household size and current income.
- Your benefits roll over month-to-month and can be saved up for large purchases or special occasions, like a holiday!
- Your SSI/SSP benefits **will not** be affected by your CalFresh benefits. In fact, you can include any current medical or other expenses, like rent and utilities, in your application. This might result in additional CalFresh benefits for you.
- Most SSI/SSP recipients will only need to reapply for CalFresh once every three years, which makes maintaining your CalFresh benefits easy.
- If you're a current SSI/SSP recipient and you live with someone who receives CalFresh, you don't need to take any action at this time. You will be added to their CalFresh household on the next required report.

What to Tell Current CalFresh Recipients

- If you don't live with any SSI/SSP recipients, your benefits **will not** change. You don't need to take any action at this time. Just keep using your CalFresh benefits to find healthy food!
- If you've already told us about the SSI/SSP recipient in your household, you don't need to take any action at this time. When it is time to reapply, the San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA) will update your application to include the SSI/SSP recipient in your CalFresh household.

- It is likely that your CalFresh benefit amount will not change. Only a small number of families will see a decrease in their monthly CalFresh benefit amount. If that happens, you may be eligible for additional state-funded nutrition assistance programs.
- If you have any questions or concerns about this change to CalFresh, you can contact HSA.

What to Tell Helpers and Caregivers

- If you're helping someone apply for CalFresh, the easiest way to do this is through [GetCalFresh.org](https://www.getcalfresh.org).
- When applying on behalf of someone else, you'll want to work closely with them to make sure you're providing the requested information as accurately as possible.

How to Get Help and Apply

We know this is a big change. HSA staff are available to help individuals apply for CalFresh or answer any questions you might have about the change. There are three ways to apply or find more information:

 **VISIT** [GetCalFresh.org](https://www.getcalfresh.org)

 **CALL** (415) 558-4700

 **COME IN**

Visit one of three HSA centers in San Francisco, open Monday through Friday, 8am–5pm:

- 1235 Mission Street
- 1440 Harrison Street
- 2 Gough Street