

# SSI/SSP + CalFresh: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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## What Does the CalFresh Expansion Entail?

- In a historic move, California expanded CalFresh eligibility in 2019 to include Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and State Supplementary Payment (SSP) recipients.
- CalFresh provides monthly food benefits for low-income individuals and families. CalFresh is California's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- There are more than 40,000 SSI recipients in San Francisco. Of these recipients, 70% participate in the In-Home Support Services (IHSS) program.
- The expansion nearly doubles the number of individuals who are eligible for CalFresh in San Francisco and can help eliminate food insecurity among SSI/SSP recipients in our communities.
- This change **will not** affect a recipient's current SSI/SSP benefit amount.

## What Do SSI/SSP Recipients Need to Know?

- SSI/SSP recipients could receive anywhere from \$15–\$192 each month through CalFresh. The total benefit amount is based on several factors, including household size – larger households may qualify for more benefits.
- CalFresh recipients can use their benefits to purchase food at grocery stores and neighborhood markets and hot meals from participating restaurants throughout San Francisco. Recipients can also double their money at farmers markets through the Market Match program.
- CalFresh recipients also have access to other perks such as discounts on monthly PG&E, phone and internet bills, and monthly MUNI passes.
- If a current SSI/SSP recipient lives in a household with CalFresh recipients, they do not need to take action at this time. SSI/SSP recipients will be added to this household's case during the next required report.

## What Do Current CalFresh Households Need to Know?

- For current CalFresh households **without** SSI/SSP recipients, no action is needed at this time.
- For current CalFresh households **with** SSI/SSP recipients:
  - Current CalFresh recipients do not need to take action at this time. SSI/SSP recipients will be added to this household's case during the next required report.
  - If current recipients have any questions or concerns about this change, they can contact San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA). Staff are standing by to answer questions and provide support.
  - There is a very small chance that benefits may decrease. If this happens, individuals might be eligible for additional nutrition assistance.

### **What Do Helpers and Community-Based Organizations Need to Know?**

- Helpers and assisters can apply on behalf of someone else. The easiest way to do this is through [GetCalFresh.org](https://www.getcalfresh.org).
- Anyone can assist an individual in completing an application as long as the individual is present.
- An Authorized Representative may apply on someone's behalf at any time.
- HSA will offer enrollment events during the summer of 2019 at community organizations, housing, and healthcare providers.
- If you work at a community-based organization and are helping enroll individuals in CalFresh, visit [GetCalFresh.org/en/for-cbos](https://www.getcalfresh.org/en/for-cbos). This site can help you enroll multiple individuals quickly and securely.

### **Who is Eligible to Apply for CalFresh?**

- Any household or individual (including homeless individuals) based in San Francisco with low or no income.
- SSI/SSP recipients starting in June 2019.
- Legal permanent residents and qualified immigrants.
- All eligibility and income requirements can be found at [sfhsa.org/calfresh](https://sfhsa.org/calfresh).

### **What Information/Documentation is Required to Apply?**

- To apply for CalFresh, individuals will need to gather information like a photo ID, rent and utility bills, and receipts for other expenses. More information on required documentation is available at [sfhsa.org/calfresh](https://sfhsa.org/calfresh) and in the "Ready to Apply" document featured in this toolkit.
- SSI/SSP recipients can claim expenses like medical expenses on their CalFresh applications.






## How to Apply

The San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA) is available to help individuals apply for CalFresh or answer any questions they might have about their benefits. 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

Individuals can also visit an HSA outstation in San Francisco at:

 **Chinese Newcomers,**  
777 Stockton Street, #104

Open Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, and Friday  
from 9am–4pm

 **Wu Yee Children's Services,**  
888 Clay Street

Open every Friday and  
the 3rd and 4th Wednesday of  
every month from 9am–4pm