

# People with a Felony Conviction

## Characteristics unique to people with a felony conviction

Having a felony conviction may make securing a job and/or other public benefits difficult.

## What is the relevant CalFresh regulation?

- Ineligibility for CalFresh applies to fleeing felons and some drug felons (those convicted of manufacturing, trafficking, selling, and/or soliciting minors after August, 1996.)
- For the policy regarding drug felon or fleeing felon status see: ACL 98-42 and ACL 04-59, (page 4), or fraud [7 C.F.R. §§ 273.2(j)(2)(vii)(A), 273.16; MPP § 63-301.741.]

## How is the regulation applied to CalFresh applicants?

Drug offenders are potentially eligible if:

- The crime and conviction occurred after August 22, 1996.
- The felony was for use or possession for personal use.
- The conviction falls beyond those listed under “Disqualified Drug Felons” and the applicant can verify:
  - Completion of a government-recognized drug treatment program.
  - Enrollment in, participation in, or on a waiting list for a government-recognized drug treatment program.
  - Evidence that illegal drug use has ceased.

## Based on the regulation, what unique steps must occur to accommodate this special population?

**Prescreening:** Individuals need to meet the eligibility requirements listed above in addition to income eligibility.

**Eligibility:** Individuals with a permissible offense need to be able to provide verification of participation in a government-recognized drug treatment program or verification that the illegal drug use has ceased (ACIN 1-45-11E).

**Benefit Retention:** Benefit retention is the same as all other applicants.

