

NOTICE TO CALFRESH RECIPIENTS IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ

As of July 1, 2014, the State law has changed. Some households may be able to get a State Utility Assistance Subsidy (SUAS) benefit. This benefit is ONLY given once in a certification period. It is ONLY for *certain* CalFresh households. The households that will get this benefit are those that:

- do not have utility bills separate from rent/mortgage,
- are not already getting the maximum CalFresh benefit for their household size,
- are not getting the maximum shelter deduction; or,
- are not already receiving an increased benefit due to the Homeless Shelter Deduction.

Your household is eligible for SUAS. An annual payment of \$20.01 will be put on your cash Electronic Benefit Transaction (EBT) account. The SUAS benefit (\$20.01) can be used towards food or cash purchases. If you do not currently have a cash EBT account, one has been set up for you. This payment allows the county to use the highest utility deduction (Standard Utility Allowance – SUA) for food benefits. At your next certification, if you no longer are an eligible household (per information above), you will not get the \$20.01 SUAS benefit. If you want to know more, call your worker.



Follow these tips to increase your energy savings at home:

- Weatherstrip around windows and doors
- Wrap your water heater with insulation or install an insulating blanket
- Set the water heater thermostat at 140 degrees or "normal" if you have a dishwasher. Otherwise, set it at 120 degrees or "low." Check your dishwasher to see if you can use 120 degree water.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps – they use 75% less energy and last 10 times longer
- Clean or replace your furnace and air-conditioner filters regularly
- Set the furnace thermostat at 68 degrees or lower, and the air-conditioner thermostat at 78 degrees or higher, health permitting. 3 percent to 5 percent more energy is used for each degree the furnace is set above 68 degrees and for each degree the air conditioner is set below 78 degrees
- Repair leaking plumbing and dripping faucets
- Close your shades on windows facing south and/or west to block summer light. In winter, open shades on sunny days to help warm rooms.
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator before cooking
- Use the oven light to check on progress when cooking or baking instead of opening the door
- Set the refrigerator temperature at 36° to 39° F and freezer at 0° to 5° F
- Turn off lights, televisions and other appliances when not in use
- Unplug computer or other devices that may be running even when off