May 2, 2019

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 19-37

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
    ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
    ALL CALWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
    ALL CONSORTIA MANAGERS
    ALL QUALITY CONTROL COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: CALFRESH LIST OF EMERGENCY FOOD PROVIDERS:
          IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSEMBLY BILL 323

REFERENCE: ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 323, (CHAPTER 68, STATUTES OF 2017);
            WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE (W&IC) 18911

This All County Letter (ACL) provides County Welfare Departments (CWD) with guidance regarding the implementation of AB 323 (Chapter 68, Statutes of 2017). Assembly Bill 323 authorizes CWDs to refer a CalFresh applicant or recipient to the 2-1-1 dial code to access information on emergency and supplemental food providers, as well as child nutrition programs. The 2-1-1 dial code may be provided in lieu of a physical list if the county deems that method to be the most appropriate to serve the applicant or recipient. This policy was effective January 1, 2018.

Background

Welfare and Institutions Code 18911, as authorized by AB 323, (Chapter 68, Statutes of 2017) requires a CWD to compile a physical list of emergency and supplemental food providers, as well as child nutrition programs. The list must be kept up to date based on information from the food providers and is required to be readily available to CalFresh applicants and recipients upon request.
New Policy

Assembly Bill 323 authorizes CWDs to refer a CalFresh applicant or recipient to the 2-1-1 dial code, a reserved dial code for community information and referral services. The 2-1-1 dial code may be provided in lieu of providing a physical list of emergency food providers if the county deems that method to be the most appropriate to serve an applicant or recipient.

Resources covered by 2-1-1 include, but are not limited to:

- supplemental food and nutrition programs
- shelter and housing options and utilities assistance
- emergency information and disaster relief
- employment and education opportunities
- services for veterans
- health care, vaccination and health epidemic information
- addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs
- reentry help for ex-offenders
- support groups for individuals with mental illnesses or special needs
- a safe, confidential path out of physical and/or emotional domestic abuse

Counties are still required to maintain an updated physical list of emergency food providers and referral services.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed by:

KIM JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division