

May 2, 2019

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 19-37**

This All County Letter (ACL) provides County Welfare Departments (CWD) with guidance regarding implementation of Assembly Bill (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 CWD deems that method to be the most appropriate to serve the applicant or recipient.



PAT LEARY  
ACTING DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
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GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

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