

January 23, 2019

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 19-95E**

The purpose of this errata is to update the recommended methodology for calculating an individual CalFresh replacement benefit that was released in All County Letter 19-95.



KIM JOHNSON  
DIRECTOR

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

January 23, 2019

**ERRATA**

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 19-95E

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL CalWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES  
ALL QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAM COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: CALFRESH: UPDATED REPLACEMENT BENEFIT  
METHODOLOGY

REFERENCES: [TITLE 7 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS \(CFR\) 274.6](#); [ACL No.19-95](#)

The purpose of this errata is to update the recommended methodology for calculating an individual CalFresh benefit replacement that was released in [ACL No. 19-95](#) on September 19, 2019.

**Background**

Based on recent emergency response efforts, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has become aware of the need to update the recommended benefit replacement methodology outlined on page 4 of [ACL No. 19-95](#). Upon implementing the recommended methodology for calculating individual replacements during recent power outages and fires in California, it was apparent that the methodology did not function as intended.

**New Recommended Methodology for Calculating a CalFresh Replacement Benefit**

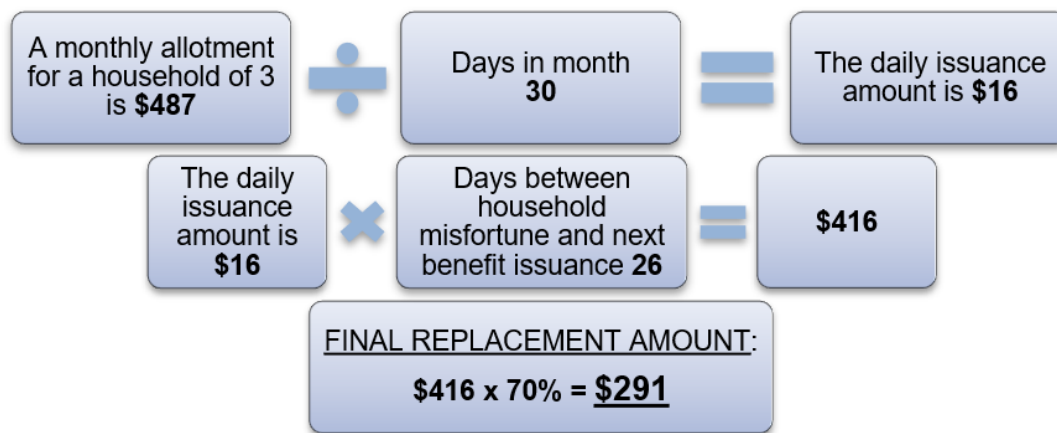
When making an individual benefit replacement request, if a household can verify the amount of food lost due to a household misfortune, the CWD has the authority to determine the benefit replacement based on that amount.

If a household cannot verify the amount of food lost, it is recommended that CWDs calculate the benefit replacement amount based on the assumption that benefits issued

to a household have been fully expended at the time of the household misfortune. Then, by determining the amount of days between the household misfortune and the household's next monthly issuance, the final replacement amount is determined.

As stated in [ACL No. 19-95](#), when using this recommended methodology to calculate a benefit replacement due to a power outage, CWDs should consider that households typically spend 70 percent of their monthly CalFresh benefits on perishable food items, per a [2016 United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service report](#). When calculating a benefit replacement due to a power outage, CWDs may replace up to 70 percent of benefits (see Figure A.).

Figure A. Calculating a benefit replacement caused by a power outage  
(Benefit replacement requested on April 7; household's next issuance is May 3)



Please note, when a household has suffered structure loss or irreparable damages, CWDs should not limit benefit replacements to 70 percent. The 70 percent recommendation is only applicable to household misfortunes resulting in power loss because non-perishable foods purchased with CalFresh benefits remain available to the household. Using Figure A. above as an example of how to determine the benefit replacement amount due to structure loss or irreparable damages, the final benefit replacement amount would remain at \$416.

This ACL and other [CDSS Letters and Notices](#) are available on the internet at: <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/Letters-and-Notices>.

For CalFresh program questions, or inquiries related to the attached forms, please contact the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 651-8047.

Sincerely,

**Original Document Signed By:**

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ  
Deputy Director  
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division