

December 28, 2022

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-106

This All County Letter fulfills the requirements set forth by Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 18919, as updated in Senate Bill 282 (Chapter 355, Statutes of 2017) regarding the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

December 20, 2022

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-106

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

SUBJECT: CALFRESH RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM ANNUAL LETTER

REFERENCE: [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 942 \(CHAPTER 814, STATUTES OF 2019\);](#)
[MANUAL OF POLICY AND PROCEDURES \(MPP\) DIVISION 63](#)
[63-102; TITLE 7 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS \(CFR\)](#)
[278.1; ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-71-11;](#)
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) 18919; ALL](#)
[COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) 19-29; ALL COUNTY LETTER 14-49;](#)
[TITLE 7 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS \(CFR\) 278.1; ALL](#)
[COUNTY LETTER 21-100; FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF](#)
[2008, SECTION k\(3\)](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide general information about the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program (RMP), the list of County Welfare Departments (CWDs) that administer the RMP locally, and the list of counties where the RMP is administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). This letter also contains instructions for CWDs wishing to transition the administration of the RMP to CDSS or reassume administrative authority of the RMP from CDSS. This letter fulfills the requirements set forth by [Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) Section 18919](#).

CalFresh RMP Background

The CalFresh RMP is a statewide program that provides elderly (and their spouses), disabled (and their spouses), and homeless households the option to use their CalFresh food benefits to purchase hot and/or prepared meals at any participating United States Department of Agriculture – Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) approved food establishments throughout the state of California.

RMP STATEWIDE EXPANSION

As mandated by [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 942, effective September 1, 2021](#), the CDSS expanded the RMP statewide. As described in [ACL No. 21-100](#), released on August 27, 2021, counties had two options for administration of the RMP:

Option I: County Administered RMP:

Under the county administered option, CWDs administer the RMP at the local level. CWDs that choose this option must follow the process described in [ACL No. 21-100](#).

Option II: State Administered RMP:

Under the state administered option, CDSS administers the RMP at the state level. The CDSS will implement the RMP in all counties not currently offering the program and will assume administration of the RMP in counties where CWDs have chosen to transition the administration of the RMP to CDSS. CWDs that choose to transition a locally administered RMP to CDSS must inform CDSS of the decision via email at CDSSRMP@dss.ca.gov at least 120 days before the intended transition date. The process for CWDs choosing to transition a locally administered RMP to CDSS is described in [ACL No. 21-100](#).

The CWDs may either transition administration of the RMP to CDSS or reassume administrative authority of the RMP from CDSS once every 24 months and must inform CDSS of the decision via email at CDSSRMP@dss.ca.gov at least 120 days before the intended transition date.

Current RMP Administration

County Administered RMP

- Orange*
- Riverside*
- Los Angeles*

State Administered RMP

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| • Alameda* | • Marin | • Santa Barbara* |
| • Alpine | • Mariposa | • Santa Clara* |
| • Amador | • Mendocino | • Santa Cruz* |
| • Butte | • Merced* | • Shasta |
| • Calaveras | • Modoc | • Sierra |
| • Colusa | • Mono | • Siskiyou |
| • Contra Costa | • Monterey | • Solano |
| • Del Norte | • Napa | • Sonoma |
| • El Dorado | • Nevada* | • Stanislaus |
| • Fresno* | • Placer* | • Sutter |
| • Glenn | • Plumas | • Tehama* |
| • Humboldt | • Sacramento* | • Trinity |

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| • Imperial* | • San Benito | • Tulare |
| • Inyo | • San Bernardino* | • Tuolumne |
| • Kern* | • San Diego* | • Ventura* |
| • Kings | • San Francisco* | • Yolo |
| • Lake | • San Joaquin* | • Yuba |
| • Lassen | • San Luis Obispo* | |
| • Madera* | • Santa Mateo* | |

Counties with an * have federally approved RMP restaurant vendors as of the publication of this ACL. The list of these counties and their associated RMP restaurant vendors can be found at www.cdss.ca.gov/RMP. Restaurants interested in participating in the RMP can find out more information at www.cdss.ca.gov/RMP/Partners.

CWD RMP RESPONSIBILITIES

Regardless of which entity has oversight of the RMP in each county, per [ACL No. 21-100](#), all CWDs must:

- Certify elderly (and their spouses), disabled (and their spouses), and homeless households as eligible to participate in the RMP and ensure that the RMP indicator has been turned on at application, recertification, periodic report (SAR 7), or change in household circumstance;
- Ensure that applicants and recipients are made aware of the RMP at intake and recertification and inform RMP eligible households of the names and addresses of participating RMP restaurant vendors in their county;
- Set the county consortia RMP reference table value to 'yes' to enable the consortia to pull accurate RMP data;
- Provide training to staff regarding RMP eligibility criteria at application, recertification, periodic report (SAR 7), and when the CWD becomes aware of a change in the household's circumstances that would trigger RMP eligibility.

For locally administered RMPs, CWDs must:

- Conduct outreach to potential applicant restaurant vendors;
- Screen applicant restaurant vendors to ensure they meet the program requirements outlined in [Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) section 278.1](#);
- Ensure applicant restaurant vendors are located in eligible service areas;
- Enter into and maintain a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with restaurants that outlines program eligibility, rules, and requirements;
- Provide technical assistance and support to applicant restaurant vendors as they navigate the RMP application process with the USDA-FNS;
- Act as a liaison between applicant restaurant vendors and CDSS, as needed, during the approval process referenced in [7 CFR 278.1](#);
- Perform ongoing program monitoring; and
- Provide ongoing RMP technical assistance to RMP restaurant vendors.

CDSS RMP RESPONSIBILITIES

Regardless of which entity assumes oversight of the RMP in each county, CDSS will:

- Maintain a current list of participating RMP restaurant vendors for RMP eligible households per [ACL No. 21-100](#), issued August 6, 2014; and
- Act as a liaison between RMP partners and USDA-FNS to maintain information sharing.

For state administered RMPs, CDSS will:

- Conduct outreach to potential applicant restaurant vendors;
- Screen applicant restaurant vendors to ensure they meet the program requirements outlined in [7 CFR 278.1](#);
- Ensure applicant restaurant vendors are located in eligible service areas;
- Enter into and maintain a Permanent Single Agreement (PSA) with applicant restaurant vendors that outlines program eligibility, rules, and requirements;
- Provide technical assistance and support to applicant restaurant vendors as they navigate the RMP application process with USDA-FNS;
- Act as a liaison between applicant restaurant vendors and USDA-FNS during the approval process referenced in [7 CFR 278.1](#);
- Perform ongoing program monitoring; and
- Provide ongoing RMP technical assistance to RMP restaurant vendors.

All inquiries regarding the RMP, including inquiries from counties and RMP restaurant vendors, must be sent to CDSSRMP@dss.ca.gov.

If you have any questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, please contact the CalFresh Policy and Employment Bureau at CalFreshPolicy@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

JENNIFER TROIA
Chief Deputy Director
California Department of Social Services