

October 27, 2022

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-84

The purpose of this All County Letter is to transmit a revised *CalFresh Student Exemption Screening Form* (CF 6177) to County Welfare Departments (CWDs).



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

October 27, 2022

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 22-84

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

SUBJECT: CALFRESH COLLEGE STUDENT EXEMPTION SCREENING
FORM: REVISED CF 6177

REFERENCE: [TITLE 7 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS \(CFR\) 273.5\(a\)](#); [7 CFR 273.5\(b\)](#); [ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) 22-46](#); [ACL 20-08](#); [ACL 17-05](#); [ACL 15-70](#); [CF 6177](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to transmit a revised Student Eligibility Screening Form (CF 6177) to County Welfare Departments (CWDs).

BACKGROUND

As specified by [7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 273.5\(a\)](#), a “student” is defined as any person who is enrolled at least half-time, as defined by the institution, at an institution of higher education. In accordance with [7 CFR 273.5\(b\)](#), students are ineligible to participate in CalFresh unless they meet the criteria for at least one of the exemptions specified at [7 CFR 273.5\(b\)](#) and described in the CalFresh Student Eligibility Handbook issued via [All County Letter \(ACL\) 20-08](#), released February 12, 2020. This is known as the “student eligibility rule.”

Per [ACL 22-46](#), released June 3, 2022, most state-funded programs for low-income students and foster youth programs approved in [ACL 17-05](#) released February 14, 2017, and [ACL 15-70](#), released September 17, 2015, will no longer automatically qualify for exemptions to the student eligibility rule as Local Programs that Increase Employability (LPIEs). The *CalFresh Student Exemption Screening Form* (CF 6177),

dated October 2020, will be revised to reflect these changes. This form will be available on the [CDSS Forms and Publications webpage](#).

Overview of Form Changes

The original language and the revised exemption criteria for the Student Exemption Screening Form are provided below. Deletions are marked with a strikethrough and additions are in bold.

CALFRESH STUDENT EXEMPTION SCREENING FORM **(TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT)**

Student Name: School Name:

Current Enrollment Status: ☐ ~~Half Time or More~~ ☐ ~~Less Than Half Time~~

~~Students are required to meet additional criteria to be determined eligible for CalFresh. If a student meets the additional criteria, they may qualify for an exemption. To help the county determine if they qualify for an exemption, please complete the information requested below.~~

College students who meet both the regular eligibility criteria (like income), and at least one of the criteria below, may be eligible for CalFresh.

Check all that apply to the student listed above:

- ☐ **Enrolled less than half-time (Only count credit-bearing courses. Non-credit courses do not count toward half-time enrollment)**
- ☐ ~~Taking non-credit courses or are taking Adult Education courses~~
- ☐ **Age 17 or younger**
- ☐ **Age 50 or older**
- ☐ Approved for work study (even if a work study job assignment has not yet begun or is not available) and anticipates working during the school term and has not refused a work assignment
- ☐ Received a TANF-funded Cal Grant A or B in the last 12 months ~~Approved for a TANF-funded Cal Grant A or B and received proof from California Student Aid Commission~~
- ☐ Working an average of 20 hours per week or a total of 80 hours per month
- ☐ Disabled
- ☐ Physically or mentally unable to work
- ☐ Does not expect to be enrolled next term
- ☐ Responsible for the care of a ~~dependent in the household~~ **member** under the age of 6 or a child under the age of 12 without adequate childcare
- ☐ A single parent responsible for the care of a ~~dependent in the household~~ **member** under the age of 12
- ☐ Receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) or Tribal TANF ~~Receiving CalWORKs~~

~~Check all programs that apply to the student listed above:~~

- ☐ ~~Mathematics, Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Program~~

- ☐ Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- ☐ Chafee Educational Training Voucher (ETV) Program
- ☐ Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)
- ☐ College Disabled Students Program and Services/Student Academic Support (DSPS) or Student Academic Services (SAS)
- ☐ Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) Program
- ☐ McNair Scholars Program
- ☐ Foster Youth Success Initiative (FYSI)
- ☐ Cooperating Agencies Foster Youth Educational Support (CAFYES)
- ☐ Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program
- ☐ Extended Foster Care (AB 12/AB 212)
- ☐ Guardian Scholars Program
- ☐ **Participating in CalFresh Employment and Training**
- ☐ **Enrolled in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**
- ☐ **Enrolled in an On-the-job training Program**
- ☐ **Enrolled in a Local Program that Increases Employability (LPIE). Many majors and programs qualify. See the full List of Approved LPIEs (www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh-resource-center/policy). An approved program to increase student employability**

~~**If you marked any of the boxes above you may be asked by your County to provide proof, such as approval or award letter, student aid report or other proof of participation.*~~

For County Use Only: CalFresh Policy specific to Student Eligibility

- ☐ ***Verification of the criteria above is no longer required unless questionable or unfitness is not evident. Please refer to All County Letter (ACL) 20-135 for more information.***
- ☐ ***Many educational income payments are not counted when determining CalFresh eligibility and benefit amount. Please refer to ACL 21-137 for more information.***
- ☐ ***Individuals under the age of 22 who live with their natural parents, adoptive parents, or stepparents must include them and their income when applying for CalFresh.***
- ☐ ***Individuals who currently have a meal plan on campus that provides more than ½ of their meals are not eligible for CalFresh.***

COPIES AND TRANSLATIONS

Forms referenced in this letter are available on the [CDSS Forms-Brochures web page](#).

When all translations are completed, they are posted on the [Translated Forms and Publications web page](#). Pursuant to [MPP Section 21-115.2](#), CWDs must use forms in recipients' primary languages when available. For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651- 8876. Until translations are available, recipients who have elected to receive materials in languages other than English should be sent the English version of the form or notice along with the [GEN 1365-Notice of Language Services](#) and a local contact number.

Per California Code Section 7290 et seq., the CWDs must ensure that effective bilingual services are provided. This requirement may be met through utilization of paid interpreters, qualified bilingual employees, and qualified employees of other agencies or community resources. These services must be provided, free of charge, to the applicant/recipient. If CDSS does not provide translations of a form, it is the county's responsibility to provide a sight translation (an oral interpretation of the written information) if an applicant or recipient requests it.

Additionally, the CWDs must ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided services such as auxiliary aids and services to persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, or persons with impaired speech, vision, or manual skills, where necessary. More information regarding provisions for services to applicants and recipients who are non-English speaking or who have disabilities can be found in [MPP Section 21-115](#).

This ACL and other CDSS Letters and Notices are available on the CDSS webpage.

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

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

Attachment

CALFRESH STUDENT EXEMPTION SCREENING FORM

Student Name: _____ **School Name:** _____

College students who meet both the regular eligibility criteria (like income), and at least one of the criteria below, may be eligible for CalFresh.

Check all that apply to the student listed above:

- ☐ Enrolled less than half-time (Only count credit-bearing courses. Non-credit courses do not count toward half-time enrollment)
- ☐ Taking non-credit courses
- ☐ Age 17 or younger
- ☐ Age 50 or older
- ☐ Approved for work study (even if a work study job assignment has not yet begun or is not available) and anticipates working during the school term and has not refused a work assignment
- ☐ Received a TANF-funded Cal Grant A or B in the last 12 months
- ☐ Working an average of 20 hours per week or a total of 80 hours per month
- ☐ Disabled or physically or mentally unable to work
- ☐ Does not expect to be enrolled next term
- ☐ Responsible for the care of a dependent in the household under the age of 6 or a child under the age of 12 without adequate childcare
- ☐ A single parent responsible for the care of a dependent in the household under the age of 12
- ☐ Receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) or Tribal TANF
- ☐ Participating in CalFresh Employment and Training
- ☐ Enrolled in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- ☐ Enrolled in an on-the-job training program
- ☐ Enrolled in a Local Program that Increases Employability (LPIE). Many majors and programs qualify. See the full [List of Approved LPIEs](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh-resource-center/policy) (www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh-resource-center/policy).

For County Use Only: CalFresh Student Eligibility Policy Reminders

- Verification of the criteria above is no longer required unless questionable or inability to work is not evident. Please refer to [All County Letter \(ACL\) 20-135](#) for more information.
- Many educational income payments are not counted when determining CalFresh eligibility and benefit amount. Please refer to [ACL 21-137](#) for more information.
- Individuals under the age of 22 who live with their natural parents, adoptive parents, or stepparents must include them and their income when applying for CalFresh.
- Individuals who currently have a meal plan on campus that provides more than half of their meals are not eligible for CalFresh.