

August 18, 2023

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-72**

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](http://www.cdss.ca.gov)



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

August 18, 2023

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 23-72

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; ALL COUNTY LETTER 22-106; 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 eligible 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 \(Chapter 814, Statutes of 2019\)](#), effective September 1, 2021, the CDSS expanded the RMP statewide. As described in [ACL No. 21-100](#), released on August 27, 2021, counties have 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](mailto: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](#).

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](mailto:CDSSRMP@dss.ca.gov) at least 120 days before the intended transition date.

#### **Current RMP Administration**

The following RMP administration is reflective 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](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/RMP). Restaurants interested in participating in the RMP can find out more information at [www.cdss.ca.gov/RMP/Partners](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/RMP/Partners).

#### ***County Administered RMP***

- Riverside\*
- Los Angeles\*

#### ***State Administered RMP***

- |             |             |                  |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| • Alameda*  | • Marin*    | • San Mateo*     |
| • Alpine    | • Mariposa* | • Santa Barbara* |
| • Amador    | • Mendocino | • Santa Clara*   |
| • Butte*    | • Merced*   | • Santa Cruz*    |
| • Calaveras | • Modoc     | • Shasta*        |
| • Colusa    | • Mono      | • Sierra         |

- |                 |                    |               |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| • Contra Costa* | • Monterey         | • Siskiyou    |
| • Del Norte     | • Napa             | • Solano*     |
| • El Dorado     | • Nevada*          | • Sonoma*     |
| • Fresno*       | • Orange*          | • Stanislaus* |
| • Glenn*        | • Placer*          | • Sutter*     |
| • Humboldt      | • Plumas           | • Tehama*     |
| • Imperial*     | • Sacramento*      | • Trinity     |
| • Inyo          | • San Benito       | • Tulare*     |
| • Kern*         | • San Bernardino*  | • Tuolumne    |
| • Kings*        | • San Diego*       | • Ventura*    |
| • Lake          | • San Francisco*   | • Yolo*       |
| • Lassen        | • San Joaquin*     | • Yuba*       |
| • Madera*       | • San Luis Obispo* |               |

\* These counties have federally approved RMP restaurant vendors as of the publication of this ACL.

### **CWD RMP RESPONSIBILITIES**

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

- Certify households comprised of adults aged 60 and older (and their spouses), people with disabilities (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 any time there is a change in household circumstances;
- Inform applicants and recipients of their eligibility for the RMP at application, recertification, periodic report (SAR 7), or any time there is a change in household circumstances;
- Inform RMP eligible households of the names and addresses of participating RMP restaurant vendors in their county; and
- Set the county consortia RMP reference table value to 'yes' to enable the consortia to pull accurate RMP data.

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 \(CFR\) at 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 27, 2021; 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](mailto: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](mailto:CalFreshPolicy@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By***

JULIANA VIGNALATS  
Acting Deputy Director  
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division