

January 7, 2025

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 25-02

The purpose of this letter is to communicate the change in funding source for electronic theft replacements for CalFresh. Effective December 21, 2024, food benefit replacements due to electronic theft must be provided using state funds.



JENNIFER TROIA
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

January 7, 2025

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 25-02

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL COUNTY CALWORKS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
ALL COUNTY ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER (EBT)
COORDINATORS
ALL COUNTY SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNITS (SIU)
ALL CONSORTIA PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: CALFRESH CHANGES TO ELECTRONIC THEFT REPLACEMENT
FUNDING SOURCE

REFERENCE: [AMERICAN RELIEF ACT, 2025](#); [CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025](#); [CONSOLIDATED
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023](#); [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 161,
CHAPTER 46, SECTION 10 \(STATUTES OF 2024\)](#); [ALL COUNTY
LETTER \(ACL\) NO. 23-92](#); [ACL NO. 24-62](#); [ACL NO. 24-62E](#); [FOOD
AND NUTRITION SERVICE \(FNS\) MEMO: SUPPLEMENTAL
NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM \(SNAP\) – SUNSET OF
REPLACEMENT OF STOLEN BENEFITS PLANS](#); [COUNTY FISCAL
LETTER \(CFL\) NO. 24/25-41](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to communicate the change in funding source for electronic theft replacements for CalFresh. Effective December 21, 2024, food benefit replacements due to electronic theft must be provided using state funds. Current policy related to the replacement of electronically stolen CalFresh benefits remains unchanged.

BACKGROUND

The [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023](#), which was signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden on December 29, 2022, included provisions for the replacement of SNAP benefits with federal funds if the benefits are stolen due to card skimming, cloning, scamming, and similar fraudulent methods. The State of California received authority from the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service to replace certain electronically stolen SNAP benefits from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2024, using federal

funds. This authority was extended through December 20, 2024, by the [Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025](#).

The [American Relief Act, 2025](#), which was signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden on December 21, 2024, did not include an extension of the authority for the replacement of SNAP benefits stolen via card skimming, card cloning, and other similar fraudulent methods. The authority to reimburse SNAP benefits due to electronic theft using federal funds ended on December 20, 2024. Per [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 161, Chapter 46, Section 10 \(Statutes of 2024\)](#), effective December 21, 2024, food benefit replacements due to electronic theft must be provided using state funds. As a result, the Replacement SNAP (RPSNAP) benefit type currently used for federally funded electronic theft replacements will no longer be used.

STATE-FUNDED EBT BENEFIT TYPE

[All County Letter No. 24-62](#) released August 23, 2024, introduced the new State-Funded Replacement SNAP for Electronic Theft (SFRPSN) benefit type which allows for the replacement of electronically stolen CalFresh benefits with state-funded food benefits. Effective December 21, 2024, County Welfare Departments must use the SFRPSN benefit type for food benefit replacements due to electronic theft. The California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) has already implemented this change and is replacing electronically stolen benefits with the SFRPSN benefit type.

Only the funding source for electronic theft replacement for CalFresh has changed. Current policy related to the replacement of electronically stolen CalFresh benefits remains unchanged.

CalFresh recipients victimized by electronic theft are eligible to receive up to two months' worth of food benefits for each countable replacement of electronic theft. The amount replaced must equal the amount of electronically stolen benefits but cannot exceed the equivalent of two months' worth of their last monthly allotment. Further policy guidance regarding the replacement of electronically stolen CalFresh benefits may be found in [ACL No. 23-92](#), issued on November 6, 2023.

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

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ALEXIS FERNÁNDEZ GARCIA
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment
Division

RYAN GILLETTE
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