

August 8, 2025

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 25-59

The purpose of this letter is to announce the implementation date of the CalFresh Minimum Nutrition Benefit Pilot Program, and the Electronic Benefit Transfer Benefit Type Code used to issue and track program benefits.



JENNIFER TROIA
DIRECTOR

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

August 8, 2025

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 25-59

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

SUBJECT: CALFRESH MINIMUM NUTRITION BENEFIT PILOT PROGRAM
IMPLEMENTATION DATE AND ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER
(EBT) BENEFIT TYPE CODE

REFERENCE: [ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) NO. 25-01](#); [ACL NO. 17-34](#);
[ACL NO. 20-145](#); [ACL NO. 22-15](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to announce the implementation date of the CalFresh Minimum Nutrition Benefit Pilot Program (MNB Pilot). It also announces the revised MNB Pilot Program Eligibility criteria, Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) benefit type code that will be used to issue and track MNB Pilot benefits, and updated guidance for under issuances.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

[ACL No. 25-01](#), released January 8, 2025, provides instructions for implementation of the MNB Pilot. The necessary automation for the MNB Pilot will be completed in the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS) for an implementation date of December 1, 2025.

MNB PILOT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The MNB Pilot Program Eligibility criteria have been revised. This guidance supersedes the MNB Pilot Program Eligibility criteria provided in [ACL No. 25-01](#). Households eligible to participate in the MNB Pilot include those who meet all of the following requirements:

- Are eligible for the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP), as described in [ACL No. 17-34](#), released April 25, 2017; [ACL No. 20-145](#), released December 29, 2020; and [ACL No. 22-15](#), released February 10, 2022; and have been conferred ESAP status through a Notice Of Action (NOA),

- Receive a monthly food benefit allotment of less than sixty dollars, and
- Are a household of two or more CalFresh-eligible members.

To participate in the MNB Pilot, eligible households must be (1) receiving CalFresh on December 1, 2025, or (2) have a pending application for CalFresh, approved with a beginning date of aid on or before December 1, 2025. They must also have ESAP status effective as of December 1, 2025. Households that apply for CalFresh or are conferred ESAP status effective after December 1, 2025, are not eligible to participate in the MNB Pilot.

EBT BENEFIT TYPE CODE

A new aid code will not be established for the MNB Pilot, but a new EBT benefit type code “MNB” will be available in CalSAWS. MNB Pilot benefits will be issued onto the household’s existing EBT card as a separate issuance in addition to their CalFresh food benefit allotment.

UPDATED NOA LANGUAGE FOR DENIED BENEFIT REPLACEMENT

As stated in [ACL No. 25-01](#), MNB Pilot benefits must not be replaced if they are lost in a disaster, household misfortune or stolen by electronic theft. The Notice of Action (NOA) language used to deny requests for replacement benefits ([M44-350K](#)) has been updated to include a denial reason for MNB Pilot.

UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR UNDER ISSUANCES

[ACL No. 25-01](#) states, correction of any MNB Pilot under issuances must be made no later than June 30, 2026. The following guidance supersedes the instruction in [ACL No. 25-01](#).

Based on the implementation date of December 1, 2025, the MNB Pilot will operate through November 30, 2026. All regular issuances of MNB Pilot benefits will occur during the 12-month pilot period. If it is later determined that an under issuance of MNB Pilot benefits occurred during the 12-month pilot period, additional MNB benefits may be manually issued for the under issued month(s) until June 30, 2027. MNB Pilot benefits must not be issued after June 30, 2027, for any reason, unless further policy guidance is released.

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

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ALEXIS FERNÁNDEZ GARCIA
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division