

August 24, 2020

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER**

The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance to County Welfare Departments regarding additional CalFresh emergency allotments issued under section 2303(a)(1) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.



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



**GAVIN NEWSOM**  
GOVERNOR

August 24, 2020

**ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER**

**TO:** ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

**FROM:** JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT DIVISION

**SUBJECT:** CALFRESH EMERGENCY ALLOTMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER  
2020

**REFERENCE:** [H.R. 6201 FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT;](#)  
[ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER AUGUST 2, 2020](#)

The purpose of this letter is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with guidance regarding additional CalFresh emergency allotments issued under section 2302(a)(1) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (the Act).

**Background**

To increase food benefits in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) and its effects on the economy, section 2302(a)(1) of the Act provides authority for the California Department of Social Services (the Department) to provide CalFresh emergency allotments.

Emergency allotments raise each household's regular monthly CalFresh allotment to the maximum allowable allotment based on household size. Per guidance provided by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), CalFresh households already receiving the maximum allowable allotment based on household size are not eligible to receive an emergency allotment of CalFresh benefits.

On April 2, 2020, the Department communicated to counties via letter that California was approved to provide CalFresh emergency allotments to eligible households for two months, March and April 2020. On April 11, 2020, the Department communicated to counties via letter that California was approved for an extension to provide CalFresh emergency allotments for May 2020. On May 21, 2020, the Department communicated to counties via letter that California was approved for an extension to provide CalFresh emergency allotments for June 2020. On June 23, 2020, the Department communicated

to counties via letter that California was approved for an extension to provide CalFresh emergency allotments for July 2020. On August 3, 2020, the Department communicated to counties via letter that California was approved for an extension to provide CalFresh emergency allotments for August 2020.

Important update: The Department previously released via letter that the August 2020 emergency allotment would have a client availability date of Saturday, September 12, 2020. The updated client availability date is Sunday, September 13, 2020 and is reflected in the table below.

### **Emergency Allotment Extension**

The FNS has authorized states to issue emergency allotments beyond the initial two-month approval. Moving forward, emergency allotments will only be approved on a month-by-month basis. The option to issue emergency allotments on a month-by-month basis will remain until the federal Secretary for Health and Human Services rescinds the public health emergency declaration that was issued on January 27, 2020, under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act or the State-issued emergency or disaster declaration expires.

### **September 2020 Emergency Allotments**

California has requested and been approved to issue CalFresh emergency allotments for the month of September 2020. September emergency allotments will have a client availability date of Sunday, October 18, 2020.

Each month that CalFresh emergency allotments are approved, the Department will issue a letter with updated information regarding the newest emergency allotment issuance date, as well as the schedule for the second and third issuance of each emergency allotment.

Each eligible household will only receive one emergency allotment per benefit month that emergency allotments are approved. That said, because the emergency allotment issuance process will only be completed via batch process and because of potential processing delays caused by the recent increase in CalFresh application volume, California will run three issuances for each approved emergency allotment. This will ensure that all eligible households receive an emergency allotment for each benefit month that emergency allotments are approved. It is important to note that manual processing of emergency allotments will not be conducted, all emergency allotments will be issued through the automated batch process.

Please refer to the following calendar for information regarding March, April, May, June, July, August, and September 2020 emergency allotments. This calendar will be updated each month that emergency allotments are approved:

All County Welfare Directors Letter  
Page Three

Benefit Month	First Issuance	Second Issuance	Third Issuance
March	April 12	May 10	June 14
April	May 10	June 14	July 12
May	June 14	July 12	August 16
June	July 12	August 16	September 13
July	August 16	September 13	October 18
August	September 13	October 18	TBD
September	October 18	TBD	TBD

As a reminder, the issuance dates in this calendar reflect the date that emergency allotments are available to clients.

If you have questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the CalFresh Policy Bureau at [CalFreshPolicy@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CalFreshPolicy@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, Deputy Director  
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division