

August 3, 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
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August 3, 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 AUGUST 2020

REFERENCE: [H.R. 6201 FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT](#)

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)(2) 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.

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 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.

August 2020 Emergency Allotments

California has requested and been approved to issue CalFresh emergency allotments for the month of August 2020. August emergency allotments will have a client availability date of Saturday, September 12, 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, and August 2020 emergency allotments. This calendar will be updated each month that emergency allotments are approved:

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 12
July	August 16	September 12	TBD
August	September 12	TBD	TBD

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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.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division