

January 29, 2021

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 2302(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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**GAVIN NEWSOM**  
GOVERNOR

January 29, 2021

**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 FEBRUARY 2021

**REFERENCE:** [H.R. 6201 FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT;](#)  
[ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER JANUARY 4,](#)  
[2021; ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-11-21](#)

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. Since then, the Department has issued a monthly letter confirming the continued approval of emergency allotments. The Department will continue to issue a monthly letter confirming the approval of and issuance date for each month's emergency allotment.

Note that the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#), signed by the President on December 27, 2020, includes a provision to increase all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit allotments by 15 percent effective January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. The SNAP benefit increase will be implemented in addition to emergency allotments. More information on the temporary benefit increase can be found in [All County Information Notice \(ACIN\) I-11-21](#) issued on January 27, 2021.

### **Emergency Allotment Extension**

The FNS has authorized states to issue emergency allotments beyond the initial two-month approval. Emergency allotments are 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.

### **February 2021 Emergency Allotments**

California has requested and been approved to issue CalFresh emergency allotments for the month of February 2021. February emergency allotments will have a client availability date of Sunday, March 7, 2021.

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 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 an emergency allotment may be issued manually using benefit type CF03 in the limited circumstance that a household should have received an emergency allotment but was not issued an emergency allotment through the three batch processes scheduled for each emergency allotment benefit month.

Please refer to the following calendar for information regarding March 2020 through February 2021 emergency allotments. The CDSS previously communicated in [All County Welfare Directors Letter \(ACWDL\) dated January 4, 2021](#), that January EAs would have a client availability date of Sunday, February 7, 2021. The **new** client availability date for January EAs is Sunday, February 14, 2021.

This calendar will be updated each month that emergency allotments are approved:

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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	November 15
September	October 18	November 15	December 20
October	November 15	December 20	January 10
November	December 20	January 10	February 14
December	January 10	February 14	March 7
January	February 14	March 7	TBD
February	March 7	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 and Employment 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