

February 25, 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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February 25, 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 MARCH 2021

REFERENCE: [H.R. 6201 FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT; ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER JANUARY 29, 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.

March 2021 Emergency Allotments

California has requested and been approved to issue CalFresh emergency allotments for the month of March 2021, so long as the public health emergency declaration is still in place at some point in the month of March. March emergency allotments will have a client availability date of Sunday, April 18, 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 March 2021 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	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	April 18
February	March 7	April 18	TBD
March	April 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 and Employment Bureau at CalFreshPolicy@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division