

December 9, 2022

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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December 9, 2022

**ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER**

**TO:** ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

**FROM:** JENNIFER TROIA, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**SUBJECT:** CALFRESH EMERGENCY ALLOTMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2022

**REFERENCE:** [H.R. 6201 FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT;](#)  
[ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER \(ACWDL\) APRIL](#)  
[2, 2020; ACWDL NOVEMBER 1, 2022; FOOD AND NUTRITION](#)  
[SERVICE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE](#)  
[PROGRAM EMERGENCY ALLOTMENT MEMO;](#)  
[CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021; AMERICAN](#)  
[RESCUE PLAN ACT, 2021](#)

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.

Since March 2020, emergency allotments have raised each household's regular monthly CalFresh allotment to the maximum allowable allotment based on household size. Previous guidance provided by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) specified that CalFresh households already receiving the maximum allowable allotment based on household size were not eligible to receive an emergency allotment of CalFresh benefits. This guidance was updated, as described below. All CalFresh households are now eligible to receive an emergency allotment.

On April 2, 2020, the Department communicated to counties via [All County Welfare Directors 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.

### **Revised Emergency Allotment Guidance**

FNS released a memo on April 1, 2021, [SNAP – Emergency Allotments](#), stating they have reviewed previous emergency allotment guidance and determined that a revised approach to emergency allotments will provide greater equity for households most in need. The updated guidance is described below.

Under the current policy, all CalFresh households will receive a minimum emergency allotment of \$95 per month. This minimum emergency allotment applies regardless of household size. Households eligible to receive the maximum allowable allotment based on household size are eligible to receive an emergency allotment of \$95 per month.

### **Emergency Allotment Extension**

Emergency allotments are approved on a month-by-month basis. The option to issue emergency allotments on a month-by-month basis will continue until the United States Secretary for Health and Human Services (HHS) rescinds the federal 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.

The FNS has provided guidance allowing for a one-month emergency allotment phase-out upon expiration of a State-issued emergency or disaster declaration. States may request emergency allotment approval for one additional issuance month if the Secretary for HHS public health emergency declaration under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act remains in place, **and** a State-issued emergency or disaster declaration has expired or will expire in the current month. The Department will release county guidance via letter prior to the phase-out of emergency allotments.

### **December 2022 Emergency Allotments**

California has requested and was approved to issue CalFresh emergency allotments for the month of December 2022. December emergency allotments will have a client availability date of Sunday, January 8, 2023 for CalSAWS counties and Saturday, January 14, 2023 for CalWIN counties. December emergency allotments available on January 8, 2023 and January 14, 2023 will reflect the revised guidance. All eligible CalFresh households will receive a minimum emergency allotment of \$95 for the month of December.

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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 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 January 2022 through December 2022 emergency allotments.

<b>Benefit Month</b>	<b>First Issuance</b>	<b>Second Issuance</b>	<b>Third Issuance</b>
January	February 27	March 20 (CalWIN) March 27 (CalSAWS)	April 17
February	March 20 (CalWIN) March 27 (CalSAWS)	April 17	May 15 (CalSAWS) May 22 (CalWIN)
March	April 17	May 15 (CalSAWS) May 22 (CalWIN)	June 12 (CalSAWS) June 19 (CalWIN)
April	May 15 (CalSAWS) May 22 (CalWIN)	June 12 (CalSAWS) June 19 (CalWIN)	July 17 (CalSAWS) July 24 (CalWIN)
May	June 12 (CalSAWS) June 19 (CalWIN)	July 17 (CalSAWS) July 24 (CalWIN)	August 14 (CalSAWS) August 21 (CalWIN)
June	July 17 (CalSAWS) July 24 (CalWIN)	August 14 (CalSAWS) August 21 (CalWIN)	September 4 (CalSAWS) September 10 (CalWIN)
July	August 14 (CalSAWS) August 21 (CalWIN)	September 4 (CalSAWS) September 10 (CalWIN)	October 16
August	September 4 (CalSAWS) September 10 (CalWIN)	October 16	November 20 (CalWIN) November 27 (CalSAWS)
September	October 16	November 20 (CalWIN) November 27 (CalSAWS)	December 18
October	November 20 (CalWIN) November 27 (CalSAWS)	December 18	January 8 (CalSAWS) January 14 (CalWIN)
November	December 18	January 8 (CalSAWS) January 14 (CalWIN)	TBD

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<b>Benefit Month</b>	<b>First Issuance</b>	<b>Second Issuance</b>	<b>Third Issuance</b>
December	January 8 (CalSAWS) January 14 (CalWIN)	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).