

January 10, 2023

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

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January 10, 2023

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 JANUARY 2023

REFERENCE: [H.R. 6201 FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT;](#)  
[ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER \(ACWDL\) APRIL](#)  
[2, 2020; ACWDL DECEMBER 9, 2022; FOOD AND NUTRITION](#)  
[SERVICE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE](#)  
[PROGRAM EMERGENCY ALLOTMENT MEMO;](#)  
[CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021; AMERICAN](#)  
[RESCUE PLAN ACT, 2021; CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS](#)  
[ACT, 2023](#)

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 [ACWDL](#) 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.

### **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 by FNS on a month-by-month basis. The [2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) signed into law on December 29, 2022 ended federal authority to issue Emergency Allotments effective February 28, 2023, which the Department anticipates will result in a final issuance in March of 2023. The Department is in communication with FNS regarding more specifics related to the impact the new law and will release county guidance via letter prior to the end of emergency allotments.

### **January 2023 Emergency Allotments**

California has requested and was approved to issue CalFresh emergency allotments for the month of January 2023. January emergency allotments will have a client availability date of Sunday, February 5, 2023 for CalSAWS counties and Sunday, February 12, 2023 for CalWIN counties. January emergency allotments available on February 5, 2023 and February 12, 2023 will reflect the revised guidance. All eligible CalFresh households will receive a minimum emergency allotment of \$95 for the month of January.

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.

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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 October 2022 through January 2023 emergency allotments.

<b>Benefit Month</b>	<b>First Issuance</b>	<b>Second Issuance</b>	<b>Third Issuance</b>
October	November 20 (CalWIN) November 27 (CalSAWS)	December 18	January 8 (CalSAWS) January 14 (CalWIN)
November	December 18	January 8 (CalSAWS) January 14 (CalWIN)	February 5 (CalSAWS) February 12 (CalWIN)
December	January 8 (CalSAWS) January 14 (CalWIN)	February 5 (CalSAWS) February 12 (CalWIN)	TBD
January	February 5 (CalSAWS) February 12 (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).