Expanding CalFresh to Older Adults & People with Disabilities Receiving SSI
Implementation Update – September & October 2019

Mission: Reducing hunger and poverty in California for older adults and people with disabilities.
Vision: Excellent customer service and access to CalFresh food benefits for all.

June 1st GO LIVE!

For the first time ever in California, hundreds of thousands of older adults and people with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income and/or California State Supplemental Payment (SSI/SSP) benefits may also receive CalFresh food benefits. There is no change or reduction to SSI/SSP. Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) recipients will receive a $10 per person grant increase for equity with SSI/SSP. People who are part of a household already receiving CalFresh food benefits may receive new state funded Supplemental Nutrition Benefits (SNB) or Transitional Nutrition Benefits (TNB) to help mitigate the potential loss of CalFresh benefits from counting the SSI/SSP income in their household budget. For more background information on the expansion of CalFresh to SSI recipients, visit www.cdss.ca.gov/CalFreshSSI.

CLIENT VOICE

Joe’s Story

Joe is an SSI recipient who, before June 1, 2019, was not eligible to apply for CalFresh food benefits. When Joe saw a flyer announcing the expansion of CalFresh to SSI recipients, he reached out to River City Food Bank to help him apply. With SSI income and Section 8 housing, he was eligible for $15 a month in CalFresh Food benefits. As part of their outreach, River City Food Bank shared their “$15 grocery bag” with Joe to illustrate how to stretch his CalFresh food dollars, as well as how to utilize the food bank and market match program at the farmers market.

Shared by Amy Dierlam
River City Food Bank

CLIENT NUMBERS

Statewide Automated Welfare System (SAWS)
CalFresh Application Volume:
April - September 2019 Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th># of Applications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr-19</td>
<td>153,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>May-19</td>
<td>238,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-19</td>
<td>276,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul-19</td>
<td>232,379</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug-19</td>
<td>200,635</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep-19</td>
<td>176,800</td>
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Source: CalFresh Data Dashboard, Monthly Participation
UPDATES & NEXT STEPS

- **Targeted Outreach:**
  - Radio public service announcements (PSAs) ran from August 5th thru September 30th in 14 markets within 36 counties; including PSAs in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin.
  - Social media video campaign ran from October 14th thru October 31st; target audiences include older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers who may be hesitant to apply for CalFresh. Social media videos can be viewed on the [www.CalFreshFood.org/Partners](http://www.CalFreshFood.org/Partners) web page.

- **Data on Outcomes:**
  - CalFresh Data Dashboard “Expanding CalFresh to SSI Recipients” tab is now live; county-by-county June thru September expansion data is posted
  - Additional updates to the CalFresh Data Dashboard, including SNB/TNB demographics and characteristics and more details about newly eligible households, are coming soon.

- **Stakeholder Engagement Survey** closed on October 16th and results will be used to inform CalFresh 2020 Stakeholder Engagement

More information, including meeting materials: [www.cdss.ca.gov/CalFreshSSI](http://www.cdss.ca.gov/CalFreshSSI)

Questions? Email: [CalFreshSSI@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CalFreshSSI@dss.ca.gov)