Wildfire Response: CalFresh & CalWORKs

California Department of Social Services

October 16, 2017

Updated at 1:00pm on 10/16/2017
Agenda

1. Replacement benefits for CalFresh recipients with food loss due to fires
2. Displaced people: statewide access to new or continuing CalFresh & CalWORKs services
3. Hot food purchases by people with CalFresh or Disaster CalFresh in region impacted by fires – waiver request pending
4. Preview of Disaster CalFresh – not yet operating
5. Other social service resources via food distribution and OES & FEMA
6. Q&A
CDSS Resource Webpage

• October 2017 Wildfires Disaster & Emergency Response & Recovery Tool Kit (posted at top of the CDSS Disaster CalFresh webpage)

http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/CalFresh/Disaster-CalFresh
Replacement Benefits for CalFresh Recipients with Food Loss Due to Fires

A. All counties can accept individual applications for replacement benefits up to 30 days from the loss
   • Households must have active case for October 2017 in Sonoma, Napa, Yuba, Lake, Mendocino, Butte, Nevada and Solano Counties
   • Reports must be made by November 8, 2017
   • CWDs must confirming via SAWS or EPIC HH didn’t already receive replacement benefits

B. Six counties providing mass replacement benefits asap, per waiver: designated zip codes (not full county) within Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Sonoma, Yuba. Total: $765,832
Displaced People: Statewide Access to New or Continuing CalFresh & CalWORKs Services

A. **New Applicants**
   - CalFresh ACWDL: Reminders on expedited service, residency verifications, other verifications.
   - CalWORKs ACWDL: Reminders on Homeless Assistance waivers and lack of documentation or verifications within standard processing time periods.
Displaced People: Statewide Access to New or Continuing CalFresh & CalWORKs Services

B. Continuing Clients

Examples of services needed: replacement EBT cards, replacement benefits, semi-annual report (SAR 7) submission or annual recertification.

BOTH CalFresh & CalWORKs ACWDLs:

• To assist people displaced from Sonoma Co, counties can call 916-874-2200 (Sacramento Co. call center) from Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

• To assist people displaced from Napa Co, counties can call 510-374-4000 (C-IV counties’ round-robin routing of their call centers) from Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

• To assist people displaced from other counties, counties can contact the home county, per usual.
Hot Food Purchases

• Current Status: waiver pending with FNS. Submitted by CDSS 10/15.
• Would allow both CalFresh and Disaster CalFresh recipients in region to purchase “hot foods” at grocery stores and other approved SNAP EBT retailers.
• Would apply to region with evacuated areas and with evacuation centers (13 counties): Butte, Contra Costa, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Yuba
• If/when approved, those counties will be contacted and FNS approval will be posted on webpage. Outreach will also be done to grocery stores.
Preview of Disaster CalFresh

• Current status: **not yet operating.** Statewide waiver request in draft.

• Presidential declaration of major disaster with Individual Assistance (IA) authorized for people impacted by fires in eight counties: Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sonoma, and Yuba.

• CDSS working with eight counties to:
  1. Submit plan to FNS for approval asap
  2. Plan D-CalFresh operations in their Local Assistance Centers (LACS) & CWDs, including potential support from other CWDs.

**New:** People impacted by fires will be able to apply for and receive D-CalFresh in **all** 58 counties/3 consortia/3 portals.

**Next Steps:** D-CalFresh waiver request pending submission and FNS approval; CDSS will issue county letter and host webinar for all counties before D-CalFresh is operational in California.
Preview of Disaster CalFresh

Disaster CalFresh benefits are made available to people not receiving CalFresh and impacted by fires:

• One month of benefits at maximum allotment for household size
• Enrollment period is for 7 days, possible to request 3 day extension
• Simplified application CF-385, with required face to face interview
• Streamlined verifications
• Benefits go on regular EBT card (if there are EBT system-access issues, special Disaster EBT cards can be distributed to counties)
• Recipients may apply for regular CalFresh after month of D-CalFresh if need for food assistance persists
Preview of Disaster CalFresh

Other program elements:

• Supplemental benefits: all current CalFresh recipients would have their benefit level automatically increased to maximum allotment for one month, to be equivalent to D-CalFresh benefit levels.

• Hot food waiver: would apply to Disaster CalFresh recipients, too.
Preview of Disaster CalFresh

Disaster CalFresh administration -- *more info to be provided*

• Reporting: Daily reporting requirement.

• QC: Separate but significant QC integrity review.

• Administrative costs: same as regular CalFresh, i.e. 50% federal, 35% state, 15% county share.
Other Resources for Wildfire Response

• CalFresh outreach partners, to assist with new applicant need for regular CF and (in highly impacted areas) with D-CalFresh.

• Food Distribution via partnerships with food banks/EFAP and with Tribes/FDPIR.

• OES & FEMA resources, including Local Assistance Centers, Federal Individual Assistance, Shelters, and Evacuation Centers.
Q&A and CDSS Points of Contact

CalFresh:
• Kim McCoy Wade  kimmccoy.wade@dss.ca.gov
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CalWORKs:
• Kim Johnson  kim.Johnson@dss.ca.gov
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SAWS/EBT:
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