

Inter-County Transfers

Characteristics Unique to Inter-County Transfers

- Individuals moving to a different county can receive seamless benefits through an Inter-County Transfer (ICT) of their case.
- Changes of address may include a change in housing costs and/or the number of household members, both of which must be reported to the county.

What is the relevant CalFresh Regulation?

- Welfare and Institutions Code 11053.2 now provides for Inter-County Transfers of CalFresh benefits. The process for CalFresh households who also get CalWORKs and/or Medi-Cal went into place on April 1, 2011. The ICT process for CalFresh-only households was to be implemented no later than July 1, 2011. **All-County Letter 11-22** sets out the process for the CalWORKs or Medi-Cal-linked CalFresh recipients, as well as the CalFresh-only (NACF) households.
- See <http://foodstampguide.org/moving/> for details regarding additional regulations.

How is the regulation applied to CalFresh recipients?

The Process:

- In CalFresh-only cases, the *sending county* notifies the receiving county of the initiation of

a case transfer and sends the informing notice, form NA 1268, to the recipient.

- The previous county of residence will determine continuing eligibility and amount of CalFresh benefits from the most recently submitted Change Report or QR 7 due during the transfer period, and continue to issue benefits until the expiration of the transfer period (30 days). If only some members of the household move, they would be added to existing households (if applicable) or must apply on their own.
- The new county of residence must contact the former county to initiate an ICT if a recipient seeks benefits while still active in the former county. It also must notify the former county of residence of the outcome of the ICT, inform the recipient that the case has transferred, and let the recipient know the amount of their new benefits going forward.
<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl/2011/11-22.pdf>
- If the household has its benefits terminated for any reason during the ICT, it may be potentially eligible for a restoration of aid (ACL 10-32). If, in the month following the discontinuance, the household either appears in or contacts the California Welfare Department (CWD) in a new county of residence and resolves the reason for discontinuance, the CWD must determine whether the household would benefit from having the case restored or submitting a new application (in the event the household is eligible for **expedited service**). If it is more advantageous to the household to have the case restored, the receiving county must provide any information needed by the first county to complete the restoration; the first county is responsible for restoring the case per ACL 10-32. If the household is better



served by completing a new application, the second county will notify the household and assist in the completion of the application (ACL 11-22).

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)

If the ABAWD work waiver rule is reinstated when an ABAWD moves to another county, the county of residence is responsible for verifying that the participant is meeting the ABAWD work rule.

Transitional CalFresh and ICT

Although County Letter 11-22 states that there is no ICT process for transitional CalFresh households, this is no longer accurate. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) final regulations on transitional benefits require states to transition households back to regular CalFresh benefits. California has chosen the option of using the existing recertification process to do so. The state has agreed that transitional households therefore will go through an ICT process.

Based on the regulation, what unique steps must occur to accommodate this special population?

Prescreening: Because an ICT occurs after the individual is enrolled, there are no unique prescreening steps.

Eligibility: The household will need to provide new verifications related to the move as requested by the county. Potential changes to be accounted for could include housing costs (rent, mortgage, taxes, utilities), household members, and gross monthly income (if there is a change in job or household members).

Benefit Retention: To maintain benefits, households should report the change of address on a Change Reporting form or their QR7 or recertification.

