



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

August 23, 2013

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE. I-50-13

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL CaWORKs PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS  
ALL QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAM COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: TRADITIONAL AND MODIFIED CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY

REFERENCE: 7 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATION (CFR) 273.2(j)(2)(vii);  
MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP) SECTION  
63-301.74; ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 13-32 DATED  
APRIL 24, 2013, ACL NO. 12-62 DATED NOVEMBER 2, 2012,  
ACL NO. 11-11 DATED JANUARY 27, 2011, ACL NO. 09-24  
DATED MAY 27, 2009

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarification regarding traditional Categorical Eligibility (CE) and Modified Categorical Eligibility/Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (MCE/BBCE).

**Eligibility**

Non-assistance CalFresh households that have been approved for CalFresh as MCE/BBCE are subject to the same conditions that result in ineligibility as all other CE households. Federal guidance and regulations (7 CFR 273.2(j)(2)(vii) and State regulations (MPP Section 63-301.74) state that households are not categorically eligible and are subject to all CalFresh eligibility requirements in the following scenarios:

- Any household member is disqualified for an intentional program violation (IPV).
- Failure to comply with reporting requirements.
- The head of household does not comply with work requirements.
- Any member of a household has been convicted of a drug-related felony (refer to MPP Section 63-402.229).

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

**Recertification**

County Welfare Departments are required to reestablish a household's categorical eligibility (traditional or modified) at recertification. Counties must document the case record, or otherwise identify the case, as CE or MCE for quality control purposes

**Benefit Issuance**

As a reminder, no issuance of less than \$10.00 shall be made in the month of application for all households, including those households that are considered CE/MCE, regardless of the size of the household and the amount shown in the Tables of Benefit Issuance. This includes, but is not limited to, households whose benefit is prorated and results in a CalFresh allotment of less than \$10.00.

**Zero Benefit Cases**

For households of three or more members which are entitled to no benefits in the initial month, the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) allows states the option of denying the application or certifying the household and carrying the zero benefit case. California has opted to deny such cases. This includes households of three or more who are otherwise CE or MCE.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your CalFresh county analyst or call the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

LINDA PATTERSON, Chief  
CalFresh Branch