

CALFRESH OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2025

Supporting clients who struggle with online applications or lack of access to the internet

While CalFresh applications are available online, many clients still face barriers due to lack of access to the internet, electronic devices or digital literacy. As outreach partners, we play a vital role in bridging that gap.

Here are a few strategies that can help:

Offer paper applications: Keep paper applications available and assist clients with completing them when needed.

Bring the tech equipment to the client(s): Use tablets, laptops or mobile hotspots to support clients when in the field at community/resource events.

Offer phone support: Walk clients through the online application or assist them with completing it over the phone, especially when transportation or internet access is limited.

Provide a step-by-step guide: Printed visuals that help clients understand the online application process.

Leverage partnerships: Partner with libraries, schools and resource centers that offer free internet access. Consider hosting/co-hosting events there.



NEW MATERIALS!

The CalFresh Outreach team has been working on some new materials! An updated Operations Manual is now on the [CalFresh Outreach Partners Page](#).

Next, we will be releasing a CalFresh Outreach Toolkit. Partners will be notified when this is posted. We look forward to sharing these new resources with you!

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H.R.1



H.R. 1 signed on July 4, 2025

H.R. 1, or the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" cuts federal money that helps pay for CalFresh.. This means:

- Some CalFresh recipients may get less money for food.
- More CalFresh recipients will need to work to keep their benefits and now be considered Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD).
- Many lawfully present immigrants will no longer qualify for CalFresh.
- There will be changes to how utility costs are counted for some CalFresh recipients.
- California will have to pay more money to help run the CalFresh program, even for some of the food benefits themselves.

Access the H.R.1 FAQs to learn more about H.R.1 changes, which can be found on the [CalFresh Outreach Partners Page](#), under "Additional Resources."

Partner Success Story

Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People

"For LEAP, most new clients come to us through word-of-mouth, as we have built a strong reputation by ensuring our staff are bicultural, bilingual, and known for being warm, supportive, and welcoming. Our success with this grant has been rooted in systematically integrating CalFresh outreach across all our services. Whether families come to us for child care, Medi-Cal assistance, or diapers from our diaper bank, we inform them about our comprehensive services, including CalFresh enrollment. During this reporting period, we opened a new child care facility in Lompoc for children ages 3 months to 5 years, where healthy food access is also woven throughout our programming, including providing free, nutritious meals and snacks during the school day. When we enroll children, we ensure comprehensive services for their families, including supporting them with CalFresh applications."



CONNECT Meeting Highlights

In July, we had our first in-person CONNECT meeting. Partners gathered together to share organization updates as well as receive program and policy updates from Alexis Fernandez Garcia, Deputy Director of CDSS FEED. In the second half of the day, partners had the opportunity to speak to each other about pertinent topics such as BenefitsCal, county relationships, and the future of outreach. Thank you to all who attended!

Questions? Contact us at
CalFreshAccess@dss.ca.gov