

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)
CF Program Guide

**Determination of Separate Household Status for
 Elderly/Disabled Household Members**

Number
 63-1104

Page
 1 of 2

Revision Date:
 10/01/2021

Background:

The Food Stamp Act of 1977 provides annual Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) to allotments, certain deductions, and eligibility standards for the CalFresh (CF) Program. The adjustments are effective every year on the **first day of October**. For SAR households where October falls mid-period, the COLA is treated as a county-initiated mid-period change.

Purpose:

This section provides staff with income eligibility standards needed to determine separate Household (HH) status for Elderly/Disabled (E/D) HH members. All tables below have been updated to reflect the changes effective **October 1, 2021**.

165% Federal Poverty Limit (FPL) Gross Income Chart	
Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$1,771
2	\$2,396
3	\$3,020
4	\$3,644
5	\$4,268
6	\$4,893
7	\$5,517
8	\$6,141*
* Add \$625 for each additional member	

1. Separate HH Status for E/D HH Member:

An individual who is elderly (age 60 or older) as defined in 63-1103 and his/her spouse, who is living with others, may qualify as a separate HH from the others. The elderly HH member must be, unable to purchase food and prepare meals because they:

- Suffer from a disability considered permanent under the Social Security Act (refer to 63-117.3.H), or
- Suffer from a non-disease-related, severe permanent disability, and
- The income of the other household member(s) does not exceed 165% of the FPL.

Note: E/D HH members who are married, must include the spouse in the CF HH.

2. Gross Income Test:

To evaluate a HH for the 165% gross income limit test, eligibility staff must complete a manual budget to determine separate HH status at application, recertification or when HH composition changes are reported.

Determining the separate HH will require counting the total gross HH income including the E/D member and deducting any gross income received by the E/D HH member. The result will be compared to the 165% FPL for the HH size without E/D HH member. Income must be under the FPL to be considered a separate HH. Examples are provided below:

County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS)
CF Program Guide

**Determination of Separate Household Status for
 Elderly/Disabled Household Members**

Number
63-1104

Page
 2 of 2

Example 1

Scenario HH consists of a mother, her two children and their E/D grandmother who states she is unable to purchase and prepare on her own. The HH income including the grandmother is \$3,200. The grandmother's income is \$524.

Outcome

HHs total income	\$3,200
Grandmother's income	- 524
Gross Net Income	\$2,676
165% FPL for a HH of 3 = \$3,020	

Since the income does not exceed 165% FPL for 3 people the grandmother **can** be certified as a separate HH. Eligibility can now be determined for the E/D HH member, in their own case.

Example 2

Scenario HH consists of a mother, and her 30 year old disabled son who states he is unable to purchase and prepare on his own. The HH income including the son is \$1,400. The son has no income of his own.

Outcome

HHs total income	\$1,400
Son's income	- 0
Gross Net Income	\$1,400
165% FPL for a HH of 1 = \$1,771	

While the income does not exceed 165% FPL for 1 person, the son **cannot** be certified as a separate HH. The disabled individual must be included as part of the CF HH, since he is not elderly.