

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
CalFresh Program Guide**

Failure to Comply With the Requirements of Another Program

Number

63-165

Page

1 of 2

Revision:

02/01/2019

Background:

CalFresh benefits will not be increased when public assistance benefits are reduced due to a penalty or sanction imposed under a federal, state or local “means tested” program. This section is being updated to the new format.

Purpose:

This document outlines the regulations for CalFresh benefits when public assistance is reduced due to failure to comply with the requirements of another program.

Policy:

63-165.1 General Rule:

Do not increase CalFresh benefits when public assistance benefits are reduced due to:

- Penalty
- Disqualifications
- Sanctions
- Reductions due to customer caused overpayments

CalFresh benefits will not be increased until the customer either becomes exempt from CalFresh work registration or begins complying with the requirements in the other program.

This provision does not apply when the other assistance case is terminated and public assistance benefits are stopped for the assistance unit.

63-165.2 Means Tested Program:

“Means Tested” benefits are benefits that are available to individuals whose income and assets are evaluated to determine eligibility and benefit amount. CalFresh benefits will not be increased for customers who fail to comply with any requirement in the following “means tested” programs:

- California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)
- Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)
- General Relief (GR)
- Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

63-165.3 Penalties and Disqualifications in Other Programs:

The following are examples of penalties in other programs:

- Intentional Program Violation (IPV)
- Willful overpayment collection
- Non-cooperation with Department of Child Support (DCSS) requirements
- Sanctions imposed for GR Substances Abuse Services
- Welfare-To-Work sanction
- Non-compliance with immunization requirement
- Non-cooperation with SSN requirements

Note: GR sanctions for failure to comply with work requirements cannot be applied to CalFresh.

Procedure:

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
CalFresh Program Guide**

Failure to Comply With the Requirements of Another Program	Number	Page
	63-165	2 of 2

63-165.4 Adjustment to CalFresh Benefits:

Disqualification for failure to comply with work requirements

Take the following actions for customers who are disqualified for not complying with the other programs work requirement:

- If the customer is exempt from the CalFresh Employment and Training Program:
 - The customer will remain eligible to CalFresh if eligibility existed prior to the sanction
 - The grant used to calculate the CalFresh budget should be the amount the household would have received if the sanction in the other program had not been imposed.
- If the customer is not exempt from the CalFresh Employment and Training Program:
 - The customer must be discontinued from the CalFresh case if eligibility existed prior to the sanction.
 - If the customer was not eligible to CalFresh prior to the sanction, the grant amount used to calculate the CalFresh budget must reflect what it would have been if no sanction in the other program had been applied. The customer remains ineligible.

Note: GR sanctions for failure to comply with work requirements cannot be applied to CalFresh.

Benefit reduction in another qualifying program

When a financial penalty is applied to a means-tested program due to non-compliance, the amount used as income (the PA Grant) in CalFresh must be adjusted to reflect the amount that the CalFresh household would have received if the penalty were not applied.

If the assistance unit is not receiving CalFresh benefits when the noncompliance occurs but is subsequently granted CalFresh, the CalFresh budget must reflect the higher cash grant amount for the remainder of the penalty period.

References:

MPP 63-503.71
MPP 63-502.171
MPP 63-407.541

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 02/28/2022.

Approval for Release:



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Eligibility Operations