

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

**Transitional CalFresh Eligibility**

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**Background:**

Food Stamp Program law and regulations [7 U.S.C. 2020(s); 7 CFR 273.12(f)(4)] provide state agencies the option to offer transitional food stamp benefits to households leaving the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Transitional benefits ensure that such households can continue to meet their nutritional needs as they make the transition from welfare to work.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1752, signed August 9, 2003, and AB 7231, signed October 2003, established a transitional CalFresh benefit program in California.

The Transitional CalFresh program was implemented effective January 1, 2004 ([ACL 03-66](#)).

**Policy:**

**63-321.1 Transitional CalFresh Eligibility:**

When a Public Assistance CalFresh (PACF) household loses CalWORKs cash assistance, eligible households will receive uninterrupted Transitional CalFresh benefits for five months. The amount of transitional benefits will be equal to the allotment received in the last month of CalWORKs eligibility adjusted for the loss of the CalWORKs grant. Transitional benefits will not change during the five-month period regardless of changes in income, resources or household composition. Refer to [63-323](#) for household composition changes.

- The household will be eligible for Transitional CalFresh even if the CalWORKs case discontinues due to:
  - Whereabouts unknown;
  - Request for discontinuance (the household is entitled to Transitional CalFresh unless the household requests not to have transitional CalFresh benefits);
  - Failure to provide information or verification not needed for CalFresh;
  - An incarcerated parent when the child(ren) moves to reside with relatives.

**Note:** If the child begins receiving CalWORKs in another household, the incarcerated parent will continue to receive Transitional CalFresh, but the child will be removed due to the receipt of CalWORKs in the other household; or

- Receiving Family Reunification Services. Transitional CalFresh must be issued in the month that CalWORKs benefits are reduced to zero when Family Reunification begins.
- Mixed households, when some household members were not receiving CalWORKs are eligible to Transitional CalFresh. However, the household is not eligible to Transitional CalFresh if any member continues to receive CalWORKs.
- Households receiving a zero CalWORKs cash grant and the minimum CalFresh allotment because of categorical eligibility at the time they are discontinued from CalWORKs are eligible for Transitional CalFresh. Refer to [63-322.4](#).

**63-321.2 Transitional CalFresh Eligibility Exceptions:**

The following households are **not** eligible to receive Transitional CalFresh:

- Households discontinued from CalWORKs for failing to submit a SAR 7 or RRR.

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- Households discontinued from CalWORKs for submitting an incomplete SAR 7 or failing to complete the RRR. (Refer to Transitional CalFresh Eligibility Exceptions Procedures)
- The CalWORKs assistance unit was not receiving CalFresh in the last month of cash assistance;
- Households discontinued from CalWORKs due to the loss of state residency;
- Households receiving CalWORKs “zero basic grants” due to:
  - Administrative costs (e. g., no grant issued due to the payment being below \$10); or
  - The CalWORKs grant is adjusted to zero due to an overpayment adjustment.

(In both instances, the households are technically considered to be receiving CalWORKs even though the benefits have been reduced to “zero”.)

- Households being discontinued from Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA);
- Households receiving CalWORKs Aid Paid Pending (refer to Other Impacts below);
- Households receiving Diversion Payments instead of regular CalWORKs;
- Households that were issued CalWORKs immediate need payments (and CalWORKs is later denied due to ineligibility);
- A CalFresh household receiving two CalWORKs grants from two different cases when only one CalWORKs case is discontinued;
- The only eligible CalFresh individual is a fleeing felon, probation/parole violation, Intentional Program Violation (IPV) or not cooperating with Quality Control (QC). Knowledge prior to the discontinuance of the CalWORKs case and the establishment of Transitional CalFresh that one member was a fleeing felon or a probation/parole violator, this household member would not be included in the Transitional CalFresh case. However:
  - If, after the Transitional CalFresh has been issued it is discovered that one member of the CalWORKs household is a fleeing felon or probation/parole violator, this household member will continue to be included in the Transitional CalFresh case, because at the time the Transitional CalFresh was established, he/she was part of the CalWORKs case.
  - If the household is suspected of fraudulently receiving regular CalWORKs or CalFresh benefits after the Transitional CalFresh has been established, the household will continue to receive Transitional CalFresh. After the household member has been convicted of an Intentional Program Violation (IPV), they will be discontinued from the Transitional CalFresh case.

Refer to [63-323.5](#).

In a case of Quality Control non-cooperation, only the household members failing or refusing to cooperate with a QC review will not be eligible to Transitional CalFresh. Refer to Other Impacts below.

- CalWORKs is discontinued due to a CalWORKs sanction or disqualification;

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**63-321.3 Certification Period:**

The Transitional CalFresh certification period will be set for five (5) months after ending CalWORKs assistance and Public Assistance CalFresh. This may result in either a shorter or longer certification period than originally assigned in the Public Assistance CalFresh case.

**63-321.4 Notices of Action:**

[DFA 1239](#) will be sent when the Transitional CalFresh is approved. The [DFA 1239](#) notifies the household of the:

- Amount of transitional benefits, the certification period and that:
  - The County will send a notice when it is time to recertify at the end of the five-month Transitional CalFresh certification period;
  - The household may ask to recertify for CalFresh at any time during the Transitional CalFresh (five-month) certification period; and
  - If the household applies and is approved for CalWORKs or regular CalFresh, a new certification period will be assigned.

The [DFA 1239](#) will also be utilized to:

- Deny a regular CalFresh (application) recertification request and to inform the household of the continuation of Transitional CalFresh; or
- Discontinue the Transitional CalFresh case.

In addition to the [DFA 1239](#), the following existing notices will be used during the Transitional CalFresh recertification process:

- [CF 29](#) (or CSC 35) Appointment Letter
- [DFA 386](#), Notice of Missed Interview (NOMI)
- Verification Checklist (CW 2200), or Request for Information [DFA 387](#).
- [QR 377.2](#), Notice of Expiration of Certification

**63-321.5 Reporting Requirements:**

Households are not required to report changes in their circumstances during the Transitional CalFresh period. Do not act on changes reported by the Transitional CalFresh household. If a Transitional CalFresh household reports a change of address, the address will be updated.

**Note:** Do not discontinue the Transitional CalFresh case if mail is returned, unless it shows an out of State address.

The Transitional CalFresh case can be discontinued with:

- Timely notice if a household verbally requests the discontinuance.
- Adequate notice if the household submits a written request for discontinuance.

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**Procedure:**

**Transitional CalFresh Eligibility Exceptions**

If the household submits a SAR 7 or RRR and fails to meet all of the CalWORKs reporting requirements, but meets the CalFresh requirements, evaluate the household's ongoing eligibility for Non-Assistance CalFresh (NACF).

If the household submits the SAR 7 in the month following the discontinuance from CalWORKs and the CalWORKs is restored, convert back to PACF and adjust the CalFresh benefits to include the CalWORKs grant with timely notice.

**Household Reporting Requirements:**

If the household requests an adjustment of the CalFresh benefit amount due to a change in circumstances, or requests regular CalFresh any time during the five-month Transitional CalFresh period, inform the household that they can recertify for regular CalFresh benefits and explain the application process.

- Send the CalFresh application form [CF 285](#) to the household, or
- Inform the household they can also apply online via My Benefits CalWIN, at the nearest Family Resource Center or by calling 2-1-1 San Diego.

(Refer to [63-325](#) for additional information)

**Other Impacts:**

**Quality Control:**

Transitional CalFresh cases are subject to Quality Control (QC) review. Transitional CalFresh cases will be reviewed for accuracy in the following areas:

- Establishing the Transitional CalFresh case;
- Calculation of the benefit amount; and
- Issues concerning duplicate aid.

State and federal regulations require all households to cooperate with Quality Control (QC) reviews. Therefore, the entire Transitional CalFresh case will be discontinued when a household member fails or refuses to cooperate with a QC review.

When a Transitional CalFresh household has been terminated for non-cooperation with a QC reviewer and then complies with the reviewer, the Transitional CalFresh benefits could be resumed if there is no break in benefits. Otherwise the household must reapply as explained in [63-325](#).

**Hearings/Aid Paid Pending:**

Transitional CalFresh households have the right to request a hearing based on the County's Transitional CalFresh eligibility determination or benefit level.

However, a household cannot be granted Aid Paid Pending (APP) after the five-month certification period ends. Households must apply to recertify for CalFresh at the end of the five-month certification period as explained in [63-324](#).

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**References:**

[MPP 63-504](#)

[ACL 03-66](#)

[ACL 13-88](#)

[ACIN I-58-08](#)

[ACIN I-50-12](#)

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 10/31/2018

**Release Date:**

10/16/2015