

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

Work Incentive Nutrition Supplement Program (WINS)

Number

63-420

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Revision Date:

03/01/2022

Background:

Work Incentive Nutrition Supplement (WINS) is a state funded food benefit for Non-Assistance CalFresh (NACF) households (HH) that meet the qualifications for the Federal Work Participation Rate (WPR).

Purpose:

This section details WINS criteria and eligibility requirements. This revision is due to sunset review expiration.

Policy:

WINS adds ten dollars each month to the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) account in food benefits for qualifying HHs. The purpose of WINS is to increase the CalWORKs Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Federal WPR. California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) HHs are eligible to receive WINS benefits but will not be considered in the Federal WPR calculation. WINS will not be counted toward any of the following time limits: Federal TANF 60-month, CalWORKs 48-month, and Welfare-to-Work (WTW) 24-month and will not trigger child support assignment requirements. WINS will be issued at application, recertification, Semi-Annual Report (SAR 7) and/or when the HH reports any changes that are reasonably anticipated. The benefits will be issued between the 20th and the 24th of the month. WINS will be issued prospectively and will continue until the HH reports a change that makes them ineligible to WINS. Benefits will be automatically added to the HH's EBT account.

1. WINS Terminology:

Term	Definition
Parent	A natural, adoptive, or stepparent acting on behalf of a child
Caretaker Relative	A relative within the fifth degree of kinship acting on the behalf of the parent of a child
Work-Eligible Individual (WEI)	An adult (or minor child head-of-HH) living with a child unless the parent is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minor parent and not the head-of-HH • A non-citizen who is ineligible to receive assistance due to his or her immigration status • Providing care for a disabled family member living in the home • A recipient of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits • An individual in a family receiving assistance under an approved Tribal TANF program
Unsubsidized Employment	Employment in the private or public sector for which the employer does not receive a subsidy from TANF or other public funds to offset some or all the wages and costs of employing an individual
Subsidized Employment	Employment in the private or public sector for which the employer receives a subsidy from TANF or other public funds to offset some or all the wages and costs of employing an individual

2. WINS Eligible HHs:

To be eligible to WINS a HH's gross income must be under 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and:

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- Cannot be receiving CalWORKs; however, if they are receiving other programs such as Kin-Gap, Refugee Cash Assistance, or Foster Care they could still be eligible to WINS
- Have a child under the age of 18, or under the age of 19 if the child is still in high school and will graduate before their 19th birthday
- Have at least one parent/caretaker relative
 - Receiving CalFresh
 - Meeting the federal definition of a WEI
 - Participating in a sufficient number of hours in work activities that meet Federal TANF work participation hours
- Provide acceptable employment verification that the HH meets the federal work requirements for subsidized or unsubsidized employment

Note: A HH is not eligible to WINS when the case discontinues due to a zero CalFresh allotment amount. “Expungement” rules apply to WINS. Once expunged, WINS cannot be reinstated.

3. WINS Work Hour Requirements:

If the verification provided does not include the hours worked, divide the WEI’s wages by the sum of state minimum wage plus fifty cents (state minimum wage + \$0.50) to determine if they meet the hours requirement. Self-employment countable hours will be computed by dividing the net self-employment income (gross income – 40% or actual expenses) by the federal minimum wage. To be eligible to WINS, the WEI’s must meet the following hours in work activities in subsidized and unsubsidized employment:

Hours Required Per Week	WEI
20 hours per week	Single custodial parent/caretaker relative with a child <u>under</u> the age of six
30 hours per week	Single custodial parent/caretaker relative with <u>all</u> children <u>over</u> the age of six
35 hours per week	with at least 30 hours being core hours, for two parent/caretaker relative families

Note: Only one WEI needs to meet the requirements for the HH to receive WINS. If two families are receiving benefits on the same CalFresh case, the HH would only be eligible to receive one of WINS benefits.

4. Actions at Intake:

Evaluate all CalFresh HHs for eligibility to WINS benefits. If the application is approved prior to that month’s release date, WINS benefits will be issued in the current month, otherwise, WINS benefits will be released the next day after batch. The approval notice will be issued to any HH that is given WINS benefits and meets WINS criteria. A denial notice is not required at initial application. A verbal notification of the denial is sufficient. This will need to be documented in the case record. If the customer cannot be contacted, a denial notice would be appropriate.

5. Actions When a Change is Reported:

When a SAR HH makes a mid-period report, evaluate the HH for WINS eligibility. If a HH voluntarily reports employment hours that fall below the federal requirement, WINS benefits must be discontinued mid-period. If the change is reported prior to the issuance of the current month’s issuance, discontinue WINS the month the customer reports the change. Otherwise, discontinue WINS the month after the report. Any payments received in prior months in which the HH was not eligible to WINS will not be considered an overissuance (OI). If a SAR reporting HH makes a

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voluntary mid-period report solely to receive WINS benefits, inform the HH the report could decrease the HH's benefits if the income increased since the last report. Do not decrease benefits mid-period only to issue WINS benefits, unless the report is considered Verified Upon Receipt (VUR).

Note: Timely notice is not a requirement for discontinuing WINS benefits. Send adequate notice when a CalFresh HH status changes and they are no longer eligible to WINS benefits.

6. Cases no longer eligible to CalWORKs:

All HHs no longer eligible to CalWORKs will be evaluated for WINS at the beginning of the Transitional CalFresh (TCF) period. If a HH is eligible to TCF and the income exceeds the 200% FPL, the HH would not be eligible to receive WINS benefits but will remain eligible to TCF. The HH must be notified verbally, and this must be documented in the case record. If a HH is eligible to WINS benefits, it will be issued throughout the TCF certification period. If a TCF HH requests to be evaluated to add WINS benefits before the end of the TCF certification period, inform the HH they may either wait until the TCF period is over and then recertify for CalFresh; or recertify at the time of the request.

7. Repayment of Claims due to OI:

WINS cannot be used to repay a claim.

References:

MPP 42-716

ACL 13-71

ACIN I-14-14, I-14-14E, I-27-15

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 03/28/2025

Approval for Release:

AW, 3-21-22

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