

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

**Disaster CalFresh Eligibility Requirements**

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**Background:**

Disaster CalFresh (DCF) is an entirely different program from regular CalFresh. Below are the eligibility requirements which apply in the event the Disaster CalFresh Program (DCFP) is implemented.

**Policy:**

**63-506.1 Residency:**

Applicants must have been living in the disaster area at the time of the disaster. This is determined by zip codes.

Disaster applicants may be eligible if the household is temporarily living outside of the disaster area but was living in the disaster area at the time of the disaster.

Households that have moved out of the County must apply in the disaster county.

**Note:** Depending on the type of disaster, CDSS may also choose to extend eligibility to those who worked in the disaster area at the time of the disaster.

**63-506.2 Household Composition:**

The DCF household consists of all people living and eating together at the time of the disaster.

The DCF household will not include members of a household with whom applicants are temporarily staying (due to evacuation) during the disaster but may be a separate household (from the household they are staying with) without regard to the restricted/separate household requirements

**63-506.3 Purchase of Food**

Applicants must plan on purchasing food during the authorized disaster benefit period.

See [63-508.1](#) for Shelter Residents.

**63-506.4 Adverse Effect:**

Disaster related adverse effects fall into three categories: loss of income, inaccessibility to resources, and the incurrence of disaster expenses. The households must have experienced at least one of the following adverse effects to be eligible to DCF:

- Lost or inaccessible income including reduction or termination of income or a delay in receipt of income for a substantial portion of the benefit period;
- Inaccessible liquid resources (e.g., the bank is closed due to the disaster);

**Note:** Bank closings may not be a factor in the accessibility of monies deposited in a bank as these funds may be accessed through electronic banking (ATMs).

- Deductible disaster-related expenses paid or expected to be paid, and **not expected to be reimbursed** during the benefit period ([63-503.3](#) and [63-508.3](#)). Eligible expenses may include the following in addition to any reasonable disaster-related expenses that could be determined depending on the type of disaster:
  - Home or business repairs

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- Temporary shelter expenses
- Evacuation expenses
- Home/business property protection
- Medical expenses due to personal injury
- Funeral expenses
- Disaster-related pet boarding fees
- Expenses related to replacing necessary personal and household items such as clothing, appliances, tools, and educational materials
- Fuel expenses for a primary heating source
- Area clean-up expenses
- Disaster-damaged vehicle expenses
- Storage expenses
- Food lost or spoiled due to the disaster or extended power outage

Deductible related expenses can include damage to, or destruction of the household's home or self-employment business (e.g., complete destruction, loss of roof or walls, destruction of heating equipment) during the disaster period;

Refer to [63-503.3](#) for information on deductible disaster related expenses.

- Households already receiving CalFresh may request the replacement of lost food that was purchased with their CalFresh benefits.
- The County may opt to allow new households whose only adverse effect is "food loss" to qualify for DCF. Loss of food as an eligibility factor may be an option depending on the disaster.

If loss of food is the only eligibility factor, the DCF applicant must sign the Affidavit of Loss form [09-93 HHSA](#).

**63-506.5 Income Eligibility Standard:**

In addition to experiencing an "[adverse effect](#)" and meeting the [residency requirements](#), the DCF applicant must also meet the "Disaster CalFresh Income and Resource Test" to be eligible to DCF.

The Disaster CalFresh Gross Income Limit is the sum of the maximum monthly net income limit, plus the maximum standard income deduction amount, and plus the maximum shelter expense deduction ([63-503.5](#)).

Refer to the [Disaster CalFresh DESK AID](#) for current Standards.

**63-506.6 Verifications:**

The verification requirements of DCF are different than those of the regular CalFresh Program.

**Identity:**

Identity is a mandatory verification. The head of household's or the Authorized Representative's identification is the only mandatory verification. Some suggested ways to verify identification:

- Photo ID
- Two documents that verify identity and residency

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- A signed affidavit from a collateral contact attesting to the identity of the applicant when other sources of identity are not available.

**Residency:**

Verify Identity where possible with the use of such things as; utility bills; or tax bills; or Insurance Policies; or other documents that establish the applicant's home or work address.

**Household Composition:**

If questionable, request the applicant to list the household member's names, their ages and birthdays.

**Loss or Inaccessibility of Liquid Resources and Countable Income:**

Where possible;

- Check disaster impact maps
- Obtain a list of banks and credit unions that were closed due to the disaster and compare with damage maps [evaluate for electronic banking (ATMs) accessibility]
- Check with the State Banking Commissioner (In California, Department of Financial Institutions (DFI))

**Loss of Food:**

If questionable, check disaster impact maps for likely damage to household or with the power company (SDG&E). An extended power outage of at least 4 hours can cause food spoilage in most circumstances.

**Note:** If loss of food is the only qualifying Adverse Effect, obtain an "Affidavit of Loss" regarding food damage spoiled or lost due to the disaster.

**Social Security Number:**

The household's application to DCF cannot be denied if the household fails to provide a SSN.

Although the [DFA 385](#) Disaster CalFresh application form asks for the SSN, the form also clarifies that: *"Telling your SSN is voluntary. It will be used for identification purposes only"*.

If the applicant does not remember the SSNs, try to obtain the numbers through CalWIN or MEDS clearance.

**Note:** Failing to provide a SSN does not disqualify the applicant from receiving DCF.

**Incurred Disaster Related Expenses:**

Where possible, verify with receipts and customer's statements.

**Excluded Household members:**

The following household members will not be considered excluded for DCF:

- Ineligible non-citizens
  - Verification of citizenship is not required for DCFP
- Students
  - Students will be granted regardless of their student status. Ineligible students are eligible to Disaster CalFresh

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- Sanctioned/ Disqualified Household Members
  - Sanctioned or Disqualified household members will be granted regardless of their sanctioned/disqualified status.
- Intentional Program Violators
  - IPV disqualification status from the regular CalFresh does not disqualify an applicant from receiving Disaster CalFresh.
  - However, committing IPV in Disaster CalFresh will count towards disqualification in the regular CalFresh.
- Strikers
  - Strikers will be granted regardless of their Striker status
- Voluntary Quit
  - Applicants who voluntarily quit their jobs within 60 days of the date of the application will be granted Disaster CalFresh.
- ABAWD
  - The Disaster CalFresh Worker/Employment & Training Social Worker will apply the 15% ABAWD work requirement exemption for the time period that the disaster occurred or when the CalFresh household was affected by the disaster. The worker will request a waiver in accordance with instructions listed in [63-904](#).

**Note:** When CalFresh Recipient Households are applying for Disaster CalFresh, they will receive the difference between the household's monthly allotment already received and the Disaster CalFresh Maximum monthly allotment for the household size including household members who have been previously denied because of their excluded status.

**Procedure:**

**Disaster CalFresh Income and Resource Test:**

To determine eligibility to DCF, apply the Disaster CalFresh Income & Resources Test.

Refer to the [Disaster CalFresh Income and Resource Test Processing Guide \(506-01\)](#)

**Other Program Impacts:**

No Impacts

**References:**

[ACIN I-77-15](#)

[MPP 63-900](#)

[D-SNAP Guidance](#)

[Disaster CalFresh Desk Guide](#)

**Sunset Date:**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or by 11/30/2018

**Release Date:**

11/16/2015