

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

**CalFresh Temporary 15% Allotment Increase Effective
01/01/2021**

**Number
CalFresh 21-02**

**Page
1 of 3**

Effective Date:

01/01/2021

Background:

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 authorized a temporary, 15% increase to allotments for the CalFresh Program. The 15% increase is effective for the period of January 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021. On July 1, 2021, the CalFresh benefit amounts will return to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020-2021 allotment amounts issued on August 27, 2020. The 15% increase will be treated as a COLA and will result in a county-initiated mid-period change.

Purpose:

This notice provides staff with an overview of the temporary 15% increase changes and instructions for implementation.

Policy:

The following changes are part of the temporary 15% increase:

ITEM	CHANGE
Maximum Allotments	Increased by 15%
Minimum Allotment	Increased from \$16 to \$19

The following items did **NOT** change as part of the temporary 15% increase:

- Income Eligibility Standards
- Maximum Shelter Deduction
- Homeless Shelter Deduction
- Standard Deduction
- Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)
- Limited Utility Allowance (LUA)
- Telephone Utility Allowance (TUA)

Procedure:

All CalFresh households, including Transitional CalFresh households, will receive the temporary 15% monthly benefit increase. For the month of January and February 2021, the temporary benefit increase will be issued as a supplement via an overnight batch process on February 7, 2021. (The Emergency Allotment run has been moved to February 14, 2021 to accommodate the 15% increase.)

Program Impacts:

The Automation team has confirmed that the 15% increase mass update process will run February 6, 2021 and will include all cases containing CalFresh. The following Automation actions will be completed:

- The batch AU Exception indicators will be lifted for all programs except Medi-Cal.
- The Maximum and Minimum Allotment tables will be updated in CalWIN Production February 6, 2021. The budget calculations for January 2021 forward for the impacted cases will reflect these updates.
- The Assistance Standards Chart (63-1102.2) has been updated to reflect the temporary January 2021 15% increase.
- The Scratch Budget has been updated to reflect the temporary January 2021 15% increase.

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

CalFresh Temporary 15% Allotment Increase Effective 01/01/2021	Number	Page
	CalFresh 21-02	2 of 3

Household Notification:

Timely notice is not required when processing a mass change. The 15% increase informing posters are required to inform households when their CalFresh allotment is changing. The informing posters (Attachment A, Temp 15% Poster English and Attachment B, Temp 15% Poster Spanish) are attached to this notice. Family Resource Centers (FRCs) must display the notification in areas frequented by customers. Posters must remain on display from January 2021 until June 30, 2021.

Management Reporting:

The following Supplemental Reports will require action upon receipt. These reports will be uploaded to the EO Tracking SharePoint following the 15% increase run:

REPORT	CONTENT	ACTION REQUIRED
Mass Update 15% Increase Exception Report	Lists and describes errors encountered on cases during the batch run process. The cases on this list have not been auto-authorized by CalWIN.	Review case and authorize. (January EA is scheduled to run on February 14, 2021. Case actions must be completed by close of business February 12, 2021.)
Client Correspondence Details Report	Lists the Client Correspondence triggered during the February 6, 2021 temporary CalFresh 15% increase run that were held in the Print Queue for review.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review all correspondence that is held in the Print Queue. 2. Delete unnecessary correspondence. 3. Before mailing required correspondence, complete manual variables.
CalFresh January Discontinuances	Lists the cases that were discontinued January 31, 2021 and which were not included in the 15% increase run.	Review case and issue the supplement via NSDI or review case run EDBC, re-evaluate and issue supplement.

Note: The Client Correspondence Details Report may include notice CF 377.9 notifying the household of a decrease of benefits. This notice will require immediate action to ensure households receive timely notice of negative actions.

Other Programs Affected:

Continue to review Medi-Cal, General Relief (GR), Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), and CalWORKs (CW) cases with CalFresh associated programs alerts and communications for impacts.

Quality Control:

The Act allows any errors in the implementation of the temporary 15% allotment increase in benefits to be excluded in the calculation of the payment error rate. (This variance applies only to the additional benefits effective January 1, 2021.)

References:

All County Information Notice I-11-21
USDA, FNS Memo SNAP 15% Temporary Increase 12/28/2020

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

**CalFresh Temporary 15% Allotment Increase Effective
01/01/2021**

Number

CalFresh 21-02

Page

3 of 3

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
Scratch Budget – EO SharePoint
Management Reports – EO Tracking SharePoint

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 06/20/2021.

Approval for Release



ASSMAA ELAYYAT, Chief
Eligibility Operations