

# The Program Access Index

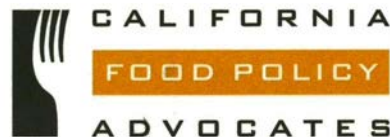
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## Measuring CalFresh Utilization by County

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# Outline

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- Defining & describing the Program Access Index (PAI)
- Using the PAI to assess economic impacts



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# Defining the Program Access Index (PAI)



# What is the PAI?

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The PAI measures CalFresh utilization among individuals who meet select CalFresh eligibility criteria.



# Calculating the PAI

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The PAI compares two populations.

1) CalFresh participants

-and-

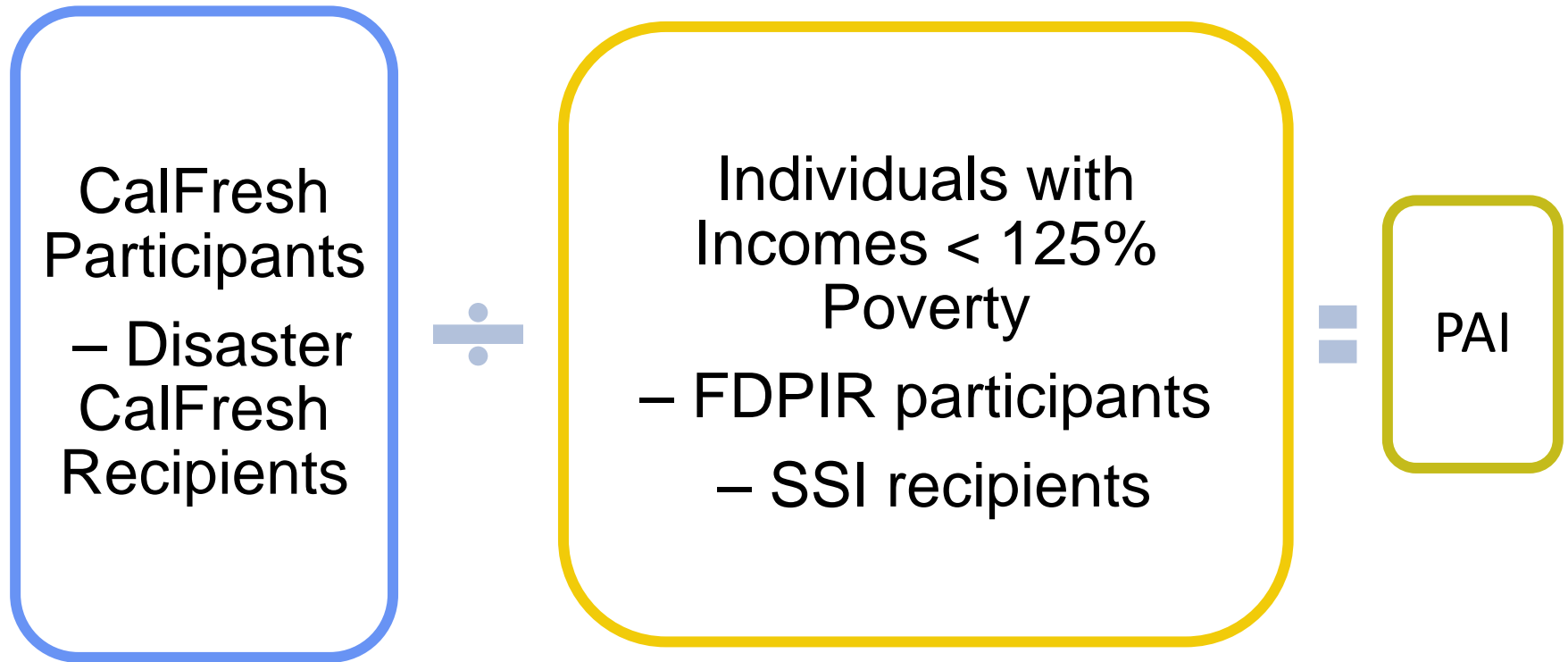
2) Individuals

- With incomes  $< 125\%$  poverty;
- Who don't participate in FDPIR; and
- Don't receive SSI



# Calculating the PAI

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# The PAI...

Is	Is Not
✓ Based on three CalFresh eligibility criteria	✗ A measure of participation among fully eligible individuals
✓ One indicator of how well counties reach low-income individuals	✗ A comprehensive tool for evaluating county CalFresh administration
✓ An estimate associated with a specific period of time	✗ Designed to definitively track trends over time

# Why Calculate the PAI?

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We need measures to assess how well

- CalFresh reaches eligible individuals
- CalFresh administrative policies and practices serve eligible individuals





# Why Calculate the PAI?

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USDA does not calculate participation rates by county

- CalFresh administrative policies and practices vary by county
- Demographics vary by county



# 2011 PAI: Example Data

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Del Norte	1.190
San Bernardino	0.928
Solano	0.889

Full report **now available** at  
<http://cfpa.net/pai-2013>



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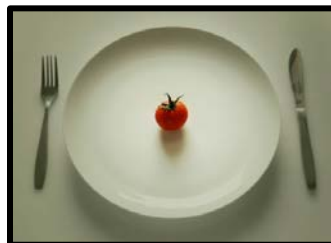
# Economic Impacts of CalFresh



# ***Lost Dollars, Empty Plates***

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- Estimates federal dollars and economic activity associated with CalFresh utilization
- County-level analysis incorporates the PAI (2011)
- State-level analysis incorporates USDA's state participation rate (2010)



# *Lost Dollars, Empty Plates*

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Statewide Snapshot	
Eligible Non-Participants	3.4 million
Lost Federal Dollars (Benefits)	\$4.7 billion
Lost Economic Activity	\$8.3 billion
Lost State Tax Revenue (General Fund)	\$83 million
Lost County Tax Revenue	\$38 million

**Full report and county-level data available at**  
<http://cfpa.net/lost-dollars-empty-plates-2013>



# We appreciate your questions & comments!

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