

FOOD4ALL

No Exceptions. No Exclusions.



SB 464 (Hurtado) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)?

The State of California provides state-funded food assistance through the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) for qualified non-citizens who do not qualify for federal benefits (i.e. CalFresh). Aside from being state-funded rather than federally-funded, CFAP and CalFresh benefits are the same — issued and used to buy groceries through the same Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card.

2. Who is eligible for CFAP now?

Today, CFAP serves about 38,000 “[qualified immigrants](#)” who lost federal SNAP eligibility due to federal welfare reform legislation in 1996.¹ Most of these people are lawful permanent residents (green card holders) of less than 5 years. CFAP participants may also be lawful temporary residents, victims of trafficking, U visa/interim relief applicants, or U visa holders.

3. How would the modernized CFAP proposed by SB 464 be different?

The modernized CFAP would be available to any income-eligible person whose immigration status alone makes them ineligible for federally-funded CalFresh. Aside from this change in eligibility, the program would operate the same as the current CFAP.

¹ <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/research-and-data/calfresh-data-tables/dfa256>

4. Will CFAP benefits count toward public charge?

No. CFAP is a state-funded non-cash benefit, which means it is exempt from being considered as a negative factor under current public charge policy AND under the 2019 regulations briefly implemented by the Trump administration, which have been permanently blocked nationwide.

Under current policy, a green card applicant's receipt of CalFresh and/or CFAP will NOT be considered as part of the public charge test.

For more, see the [USCIS Statement](#) on current policy 3/10/21.

5. How would people apply to the modernized California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)?

CFAP and CalFresh use the same application and enrollment process. People would apply for the modernized CFAP by submitting a CalFresh application online, by phone, in person, or through an application assister.

6. What are the eligibility criteria for participation?

Eligibility criteria for CFAP and CalFresh are identical, except that the modernized CFAP would have no restrictions based on immigration status.

See [CalFresh eligibility](#) (CDSS).

7. Who/what entities would administer the program?

County Welfare Departments administer CFAP and CalFresh in collaboration with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). SB 464 would not change this structure.

8. How and when do people transfer from CFAP to federally-funded CalFresh?

If a CFAP household member's immigration status changes to make them eligible for CalFresh, they would notify their County Welfare Department about their change in status. The county would then transfer their case to federally-funded CalFresh. Counties would also check for a status change at the time of semi-annual reporting and recertification.

9. Where can participants use their CFAP food benefits?

CFAP benefits are delivered on the same type of EBT card as CalFresh benefits. Food EBT is accepted at most grocery stores, corner stores, and farmers markets. Visit www.ebt.ca.gov to find nearby stores that accept CalFresh:

- a. On the left-hand side, click "EBT Map." Enter your ZIP Code and select "food" under Filters.

10. How can I/my organization support Food4All?

Fill out the [join form](#) to join the Food4All coalition! Coalition members attend bi-weekly meetings and help mobilize around specific targeted actions. Or sign up to receive Food4All action alerts and locate campaign resources here: bit.ly/f4a2021.