



Outreach

Resource Toolkit for Schools to Reach Families Orange County



Apply Online

www.BenefitsCal.com

*(English, Spanish, and
10 additional languages)*

Apply by Phone

Text "Food OC" to 74544
Texta "COMIDA OC a 74544
or
Call 2-1-1
Toll Free: (888) 600-4357

Apply In-Person

Find your Orange County
Social Services Agency office.



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Outreach

CalFresh Outreach is Important for Students

CALFRESH HELPS KIDS

CalFresh helps kids in the classroom: Consistent access to food helps to reduce chronic absenteeism, boosts test scores, and minimizes disruptions from behavioral issues and visits to the nurse's office.

CalFresh helps kids on the playground: Consistent access to food helps kids stay active, which boosts memory, flexible thinking, and self-control.



CALFRESH HELPS FAMILIES

CalFresh helps kids at home: California households of four can receive an average of \$713* per month to help parents afford groceries.

**Maximum CalFresh benefit allotments amounts can vary on a month to month basis. For more information, visit the County's Department of Social Services website.*

CalFresh helps kids at school: Kids enrolled in CalFresh are automatically eligible for free & reduced price school meals and SUN Bucks, also known as Summer EBT.

**CA Senate Bill 708 (Mendoza, 2015) requires LEAs who have their school meal application available online to include CalFresh application link on their website.*

CALFRESH HELPS SCHOOLS

CalFresh helps to build resilient and thriving communities:

By providing consistent access to food resources for kids, CalFresh helps families stay nourished, reducing financial strain and enhances overall health and well-being.

CalFresh helps boost funding for school nutrition programs:

By reaching more eligible kids, CalFresh enhances a school's capacity to run free summer and afterschool meal programs and to implement the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which removes administrative burdens and allows schools to offer meals to all students at no cost to families. [Learn more about CEP.](#)



Outreach

CalFresh Won't Hurt Your Immigration Status

Please Note: Immigrant families may be hesitant to enroll in CalFresh. Public charge rules do not apply to programs like CalFresh, SUN Bucks, WIC, and school meal programs.

Getting CalFresh will not affect your immigration status, or your chances of getting legal permanent residency in the future.

Find answers to common questions about CalFresh and immigration in this [CalFresh guide for immigrants](#).

For questions about other public benefits, please consult legal aid.

For additional community-facing resources, visit Protecting Immigrant Families Coalition at: <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/>

Text "Benefits" to 650-376-8006 to learn more about how people with different immigration statuses could be affected by CalFresh eligibility.

**MANY
BENEFITS
AVAILABLE FOR
KIDS**

Many children of immigrant parents are eligible for benefits.



PROTECTING
IMMIGRANT
FAMILIES

**PRIVATE AND
PROTECTED**

*INFORMATION ON
BENEFITS APPLICATIONS
IS NOT SHARED FOR
IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT*



PROTECTING
IMMIGRANT
FAMILIES

**YOUR KIDS' USE OF
BENEFITS WON'T
HARM YOUR
IMMIGRATION
STATUS**

*HEALTH AND FOOD
PROGRAMS CAN
HELP THEM THRIVE*



PROTECTING
IMMIGRANT
FAMILIES



Outreach

Disaster CalFresh Response

Disaster CalFresh is a program that provides immediate food assistance to individuals and families impacted by natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, or fires. If your community is approved for federal disaster relief, [check here for locations](#) on where to apply. [More](#) information about the Disaster CalFresh program.

If you are eligible for D-CalFresh, families can:

- Apply Online at BenefitsCal.com
- Apply by calling 1-877-847-3663 and follow the prompts to speak with your county welfare office
- Apply in-person at any county District Office or outreach site.

If you already get CalFresh, you are not eligible for Disaster CalFresh **BUT** can request replacement benefits [here](#).

Individuals and families can now buy prepared hot foods with CalFresh at Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)-authorized retail stores through February 8, 2025 in Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, & Ventura Counties.

Visit the [CDSS D-CalFresh](#) Website for more information.

¿RECIBE CALFRESH? ✓

¿VIVE EN UN ÁREA IMPACTADA POR LOS FUEGOS O INTERRUPCIONES DE ELECTRICIDAD? ✓

Ahora individuales y familias pueden comprar alimentos preparados y calientes con CalFresh en las tiendas que aceptan EBT/SUN Bucks hasta el 8 de febrero

Aplica a las siguientes áreas:

- Kern
- Los Angeles
- Orange
- Riverside
- San Bernardino
- San Diego
- Ventura

A flyer for the Disaster CalFresh program in Spanish. It features a green header with two checkmarks and questions about receiving CalFresh and living in an impacted area. The main text states that individuals and families can now buy prepared and hot foods with CalFresh at stores accepting EBT/SUN Bucks until February 8. A list of counties is provided: Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura. The flyer includes an image of a sandwich and the CalFresh Disaster Response logo.

ARE YOU GETTING CALFRESH? ✓

LIVE IN AN AREA IMPACTED BY WILDFIRES OR POWER OUTAGES? ✓

Individuals and families can now buy prepared or hot foods with CalFresh at stores that accept EBT/SUN Bucks through February 8.

Applies to the following areas:

- Kern
- Los Angeles
- Orange
- Riverside
- San Bernardino
- San Diego
- Ventura

A flyer for the Disaster CalFresh program in English. It features a green header with two checkmarks and questions about getting CalFresh and living in an impacted area. The main text states that individuals and families can now buy prepared or hot foods with CalFresh at stores accepting EBT/SUN Bucks through February 8. A list of counties is provided: Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura. The flyer includes an image of a sandwich and the CalFresh Disaster Response logo.



Outreach

mRelief CalFresh Screening Tool

No Kid Hungry is partnering with mRelief and 2-1-1 Orange County to ensure eligible families in Orange County are connected to vital food assistance resources like CalFresh.

To check eligibility, families can:

- Text "FOOD OC" or "COMIDA OC" to 74544,
- Scan the QR Code, or
- Go to the screener online snap.mrelief.com/GetFoodSupportNow

If families qualify for CalFresh, they will be connected to CDSS to apply and/or a local agency to help with the application process.

Families can also call 2-1-1 Orange County to apply!

We invite you to use these graphics and templates in this toolkit to help spread the word about CalFresh and the screening tool in your neighborhood.

Download free social media graphics in English and Spanish here:
<https://tinyurl.com/OrangeCalFresh>

The image contains two Spanish-language social media graphics. The top graphic has a light blue background with a large yellow sun in the top right corner. The text reads: "OBTENER MÁS FRUTAS Y VERDURAS CON CALFRESH, MIRA SI ERES ELEGIBLE". Below the text is a QR code and the text: "Envíe 'COMIDA OC' por texto al 74544 o escanea código QR". To the right of the QR code are illustrations of an orange and a strawberry. The bottom graphic has a light blue background with a large yellow sun in the top right corner. The text reads: "NEED HELP BUYING FOOD FOR YOUR KIDS? CALFRESH CAN HELP". Below the text is the text: "Not sure if you qualify? Use the QR Code to go to our free screening tool or text 'FOOD OC' to 74544". Below this text is a QR code and illustrations of a head of lettuce, a carrot, a yellow bell pepper, and a carton of milk. Both graphics have a footer with logos for 2-1-1 Orange County, NO KID HUNGRY, and mRelief.

OBTENER MÁS FRUTAS Y VERDURAS CON CALFRESH, MIRA SI ERES ELEGIBLE

Envíe "COMIDA OC" por texto al 74544 o escanea código QR

NEED HELP BUYING FOOD FOR YOUR KIDS? CALFRESH CAN HELP

Not sure if you qualify? Use the QR Code to go to our free screening tool or text "FOOD OC" to 74544

SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

Schools that receive USDA meal reimbursements are required to have a Wellness Policy that is reviewed and updated every three years.

Sample Policy Language

- In order to maximize the district's ability to provide nutritious meals and snacks, all District schools will participate in available federal school nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs and after-school snack programs, to the extent possible.
- Section 49557 of Education Code is amended to read: the governing board of a school district and the county superintendent of schools shall make paper applications for free or reduced-price meals available to pupils at all times during each regular schoolday, and may also make an application electronically available online, provided that the online application includes the link to the online application to CalFresh (*Amended by Stats. 2015, Ch. 390, Sec. 2. (SB 708) Effective January 1, 2016*).
- OCDE provides School Wellness Policy technical assistance and support, at no cost to school districts. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email Celeste Reynoso at cerenos@ocde.us

Sample Language to Copy and Paste: English

Newsletter or Website Post

With rising food costs are making it hard for many families to put food on the table, CalFresh is one of the most effective tools to reduce childhood hunger and poverty. CalFresh provides monthly benefits to help households purchase healthy and nutritious food they need. ⁸

CalFresh benefits are uploaded to an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card and can be used to purchase food at places like grocery stores and farmers markets. Applying for CalFresh is confidential. See if you qualify by texting “FOOD OC” or “COMIDA OC” to 74544. You can apply at www.BenefitsCal.com or call 2-1-1 or (888) 600-4357.

Email or Letter to Families

Dear Families,

If you recently lost your job or experienced a loss in income, you may be eligible for CalFresh food benefits. CalFresh may help you put food on the table for you and your children.

CalFresh provides money for food on an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card that can be used like a debit card to buy food at grocery stores and farmers markets. The card is mailed to your house and benefits are uploaded each month directly on the card.

For the average household of four, California families could receive an estimated \$713 a month to help afford groceries.

Get more fruits and vegetables. See if you are eligible by texting “FOOD OC” or “COMIDA OC” to 74544. You can apply at www.BenefitsCal.com or call 2-1-1 or (888) 600-4357.

Robocall Script

Hello, this is [Name of superintendent or principal]. Rising food costs are making it hard for many families to put food on the table, but there are programs that can help.

If you or your family could use support buying groceries, you may be eligible for CalFresh, a program that helps millions of people all across the country.

For the average household of four, California families could receive an estimated \$713 a month to help afford groceries.

See if you are eligible by texting “FOOD OC” or “COMIDA OC” to 74544. You can apply at www.BenefitsCal.com or call 2-1-1 or (888) 600-4357.

Idioma de Muestra para Copiar y Pegar: En Español

Publicación en Boletín o Sitio Web

Con el aumento en el costo de los alimentos haciendo que sea difícil para muchas familias poner comida en la mesa, CalFresh es una de las herramientas más eficaces para reducir el hambre infantil y la pobreza. CalFresh proporciona beneficios mensuales para ayudar a los hogares a comprar los alimentos sanos y nutritivos que necesitan.

Los beneficios de CalFresh se cargan en una tarjeta de Transferencia Electrónica de Beneficios (EBT, por sus siglas en inglés) y se pueden utilizar para comprar alimentos en lugares como tiendas de comestibles y mercados agrícolas. La solicitud de CalFresh es confidencial. Comprueba si eres elegible enviando un mensaje de texto con las palabras "FOOD OC" o "COMIDA OC" al 74544. Puedes solicitarlo en www.BenefitsCal.com o llamando al 2-1-1 al (888) 600-4357.

Correo Electrónico o Carta a las Familias

Estimadas Familias,

Si recientemente perdiste tu trabajo o experimentaste una pérdida de ingresos, es posible que seas elegible para recibir los beneficios alimentarios de CalFresh. CalFresh puede ayudarte a poner comida en la mesa para ti y tus hijos.

CalFresh proporciona dinero para alimentos en una tarjeta de Transferencia Electrónica de Beneficios (EBT, por sus siglas en inglés) que puede utilizarse como una tarjeta de débito para comprar alimentos en tiendas de comestibles y mercados agrícolas. La tarjeta se envía por correo a tu casa y los beneficios se cargan cada mes directamente en la tarjeta.

Para un hogar promedio de cuatro miembros, las familias californianas podrían recibir unos \$713 al mes como ayuda para comprar alimentos.

Obtén más frutas y vegetales. Comprueba si eres elegible enviando un mensaje de texto con "FOOD OC" o "COMIDA OC" al 74544. Puedes solicitarlo en www.BenefitsCal.com o llamando al 2-1-1 al (888) 600-4357.

Guión de Llamada Automática

Hola, soy [Nombre del superintendente o director]. El aumento en el costo de los alimentos está haciendo que sea difícil para muchas familias poner comida en la mesa, pero hay programas que pueden ayudar.

Si tú o tu familia podrían necesitar ayuda para comprar alimentos, podrías ser elegible para CalFresh, un programa que ayuda a millones de personas en todo el país.

Para un hogar promedio de cuatro personas, las familias de California podrían recibir un estimado de \$713 al mes para ayudar a comprar alimentos.

Comprueba si eres elegible enviando un mensaje de texto con "FOOD OC" o "COMIDA OC" al 74544. Puedes solicitarlo en www.BenefitsCal.com o llamando al 2-1-1 al (888) 600-4357.

English

If you could use some extra help putting food on the table for your kids, you're not alone. Learn about how CalFresh can help your family. Visit: www.BenefitsCal.com

Need some help buying groceries? Learn more about CalFresh: www.BenefitsCal.com

California households of 4 can receive an average of \$713 a month to help parents afford groceries. www.BenefitsCal.com

If your income has changed recently, CalFresh can help with groceries. Learn more here: www.BenefitsCal.com

See if you are eligible for CalFresh by texting FOOD OC or COMIDA OC to 74544. Apply at www.BenefitsCal.com

CalFresh is safe to use for you and your family. Accessing CalFresh will not affect your immigration status. Visit: www.BenefitsCal.com

Español

Si pudieras necesitar ayuda adicional para llevar comida a la mesa para tus hijos, no estás solo. Infórmate sobre cómo CalFresh puede ayudar a tu familia. Visítanos: www.BenefitsCal.com

¿Necesitas ayuda para comprar alimentos? Comprueba si eres elegible para CalFresh: www.BenefitsCal.com

Los hogares californianos de 4 personas pueden recibir un promedio de \$713 al mes para ayudar a los padres a comprar alimentos. Más información: www.BenefitsCal.com

Si tus ingresos han cambiado recientemente, CalFresh puede ayudarte con los alimentos. Infórmate aquí: www.BenefitsCal.com

Averigua si eres elegible para recibir CalFresh enviando el mensaje de texto FOOD OC o COMIDA OC al 74544. Solicita en: www.BenefitsCal.com

CalFresh es seguro para ti y tu familia. El acceso a CalFresh no afectará tu estatus migratorio. Visita: www.BenefitsCal.com

To download free graphics (in both English and Spanish) to use on social media, copy/paste this link into your browser:

<https://tinyurl.com/OrangeCalFresh>

Add a CalFresh Screening Tool & Application Button*

Parents regularly look to schools as a trusted source of information. Help your families connect to CalFresh by adding a link to your district, school and nutrition department websites. CalFresh graphics and links are free to use and promote through your networks. No need to connect to Social Services for permission! Here is how to get started:

1. Contact your website administrators and ask them to add a link to the mRelief CalFresh screening tool (snap.mrelief.com/GetFoodSupportNow) and CalFresh application (www.BenefitsCal.com).
2. Consider using templates and samples from our social media posts (pg 8).
3. Add a colorful “button” to your website to use as a link to.



CalFresh Logo



mRelief Logo



*QR Code to
CalFresh Screener*

**CA Senate Bill 708 (Mendoza, 2015) requires LEAs who have their school meal application available online to include CalFresh application link on their website.*

Increase CalFresh Enrollment

Under AB 402 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) can enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with County Welfare Departments (CWDs) to share information regarding school lunch participants who may be eligible to receive CalFresh benefits.

With the permission of the parent or guardian signing some form of consent, information submitted on the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) application with the local county CalFresh office can be shared.

Goal of this program is to increase the number of eligible families receiving CalFresh by using information about students who are presently receiving free or reduced lunch.

[Official CDSS Letter with Parent Consent Form Examples Here](#)



Outreach

Get Assistance from 2-1-1 Orange County



211OC links Orange County's most vulnerable with the health and human service resources they need.

If you need immediate assistance please contact our Resource Help Line.

By dialing **2-1-1**, you are linked to a live, highly-trained, Information & Referral Specialist who will help you navigate through your situation by assessing your needs and then matching you to the most appropriate resources in your community. Assistance is confidential and offered in more than 170 languages.

If dialing 2-1-1 does not work from your phone, you may also dial:

(888) 600-HELP (888) 600-4357 toll free

(949) 646-HELP (949) 646-4357 local

Visit 211OC's website at <https://211oc.org/content/CalFresh.html>

Orange County Regional Offices

<u>ANAHEIM</u>	3320 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92806 Service Center: 800-281-9799 Hours of Operation: 7:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday
<u>CYPRESS</u>	6100 Chip Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 Service Center: 800-281-9799 Hours of Operation: 7:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday
<u>GARDEN GROVE</u>	12912 Brookhurst St., Garden Grove, CA 92840 Service Center: 800-281-9799 Hours of Operation: 7:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday
<u>LAGUNA HILLS</u>	23330 Moulton Parkway, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 Service Center: 800-281-9799 Hours of Operation: 7:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday
<u>SANTA ANA</u>	1928 S. Grand Ave., BLDG B, Santa Ana, CA 92705 Service Center: 800-281-9799 Hours of Operation: 7:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday



NEED HELP BUYING FOOD FOR YOUR FAMILY? CALFRESH CAN HELP



Insert Custom Text

Insert Custom Text

Insert Custom Text





¿NECESITA AYUDA PARA COMPRAR COMIDA PARA SU FAMILIA? CALFRESH PUEDE AYUDAR



Insert Custom Text

Insert Custom Text

Insert Custom Text

