



CALFRESH UPDATES

New income limits for 2017-2018 fiscal year effective October 1, 2017.

Benefit allotment will decrease by a few dollars. Also, the minimum benefit amount will decrease from \$16 to \$15.

Certain deductions will increase:

- Maximum shelter deduction for HHs with an elderly or disabled members
- Standard deduction for HHs of 1-3 members.
- Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) and Limited Utility Allowance (LUA).

Telephone Utility Allowance (TUA) will decrease.

Starting October 1, 2017, USDA will begin 2 demonstration projects to help seniors and disabled participants.

Elderly Simplified Application Process (ESAP): Households with only elderly and/or disabled members and with no earned income will be considered for:

- Annual recertification interview waived
- Use existing data matches for verification
- 36-month certification period
 - SAR 7 at 12 & 24 months
- Existing households: at next recertification, if determined eligible for ESAP, existing CalFresh households will be converted to ESAP and assigned a 36-month certification period.
- New households: at application, if determined eligible for ESAP, households will be assigned 36-month certification period.



Medical deductions- Standard Medical Deduction (SMD):

- HHs with at least one elderly (60+) or disabled member with verified medical expenses between **\$35.01 and \$155 per month** will receive a Standard deduction of \$120.
- HHs with medical expenses above \$155 per month may claim and verify actual expenses.

Many expenses can be claimed:

- Medical and dental care
- Hospitalization or outpatient treatment, nursing care and nursing home care
- Health and hospitalization insurance premiums and co-pays
- Prescription and over-the-counter medication and medical supplies
- Hearing aids, eye glasses, dentures and prosthetics
- Home health care
- Transportation to the doctor, pharmacy, or any medical appointment
- Cost of service animals

Deductions are important when calculating benefit amount because it may increase the total CalFresh allotment. Benefit increase in CA is expected to average \$22 per month (\$15 is the minimum).

Materials/Worksheets:

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/English/CF31.pdf>

<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/calfreshoutreach/res/Toolkit/Worksheets/Worksheet 1 Elderly-DisabledDeductionsChecklist.pdf>

ACIN 1-63-17- COLA adjustments-

http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/ACIN/2017/1-63_17.pdf