



CalFresh Benefits and the Federal Shut Down

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are November CalFresh benefits delayed?

The federal government is shut down. Until President Trump and Congress reopen the government, millions of Californians receiving CalFresh benefits may have their benefits impacted. The federal government has not provided additional funding for these benefits. Funding is available for benefits for the month of October. However, if the federal government shutdown continues past October 23 and the federal government does not provide additional funding, CalFresh benefits will be delayed in November.

Will I be able to use the CalFresh benefits on my EBT card in November 2025?

You will be able to use your EBT card as usual through October 2025. But depending on how long the federal government shutdown lasts, and what steps the federal government takes, people receiving CalFresh benefits may not be able to use their EBT cards at retailers starting in November 2025.

What if I am due to complete my SAR 7 or renew my CalFresh benefits in November and I haven't sent in my completed forms yet?

Please continue to submit all required forms and your recertification as normal. However, there may be processing delays due to the continued federal government shutdown.

Can I still apply for new CalFresh benefits in November?

Yes. You can apply for CalFresh benefits online at www.benefitscal.com, by phone at 1-877-847-3663, or in person at your local county social services office. For more information, visit www.benefitscal.com. Because of the federal government's shutdown and its failure to provide additional funding, your benefits may be delayed.

Are county social services offices still open?

Yes. County social services office are still open. You can go in person, or you can call 1-877-847-3663.

Where can I find additional food resources in my community?

You can get free food from your local food bank. There are food banks across California that give free food to people in their communities. To find a food bank, visit www.cafoodbanks.org/find-food/.

Can I request a state hearing if my CalFresh benefits are delayed or denied?

While hearings can always be requested, judges are unable to grant benefits due to funding delays caused by the federal government shutdown.

Are CalWORKs benefits also at risk?

Currently, the state is expected to be able to fund CalWORKs benefits for November 2025. However, a continued federal government shutdown will put December 2025 CalWORKs benefits at risk.

Source: California Department of Social Services (CDSS) For more information in Mono County, call 760/924-1770 (Health and Human Services)