California Disasters and CalFresh: 2025

Last Updated December 1, 2025

CDSS resource page for CalFresh disaster response:
https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/calfresh/disaster-calfresh

CDSS Disaster Outreach Materials page:
https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/cdss-programs/calfresh/disaster-response/outreach-materials

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Page 4: Automated Mass Replacement Waiver (December)

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Disaster CalFresh

No county is currently approved for Disaster CalFresh. People who lived or worked in a county approved for disaster calfresh and experienced an adverse effect (including lost food, wages) due to a natural disaster (ex: wildfires) may be eligible for Disaster CalFresh.

- **CDSS Press Releases and Letters:**

- **Counties Impacted:** N/A

- **Outreach Materials:**
  - CAFB's talking points, sample email, sample phone script

- **Who is eligible:** D-CalFresh is for people who are **not** already on CalFresh, but were affected by the disasters in the counties listed - **this includes if they lived or worked in this county and experienced harm**. People do not need an SSN to be eligible, but they need to meet income guidelines.

- **How do people apply?:**
  - People can apply over the phone by calling their local county human services office, or in person at designated application sites.

- **Timeframe:** Applications for D-CalFresh can be submitted during a limited time period

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Hot and Prepared Foods

No county currently has a hot foods waiver, which, when approved, allows people who get CalFresh (and Disaster CalFresh) to use their benefits to buy hot and prepared foods at grocery stores and markets. Hot and prepared foods can include but are not limited to, items such as hot slices of pizza, hot soup, and rotisserie chicken. The hot foods waiver does not include restaurants.

- **CDSS Press Releases and Letters:**
  - N/A
- **Counties impacted:**
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- **Timeframe:**
- **What can be purchased:** Under normal circumstances, CalFresh recipients cannot purchase "hot foods and hot food products prepared for immediate consumption" (e.g., rotisserie chicken, hot food or, soup bars, etc.). This waiver allows CalFresh recipients to purchase hot and prepared food in recognition that households may have relocated or not have access to cooking equipment.
- **Who is impacted:** ALL CalFresh recipients living in the above list of counties can now purchase hot and prepared foods. They do not need to do anything to change their CalFresh case information.
- **What stores are participating:** All stores that already accept CalFresh EBT in the county above can now start approving purchases for hot and prepared foods; however, not all stores may be aware of this change. Please help us get the word out to retailers and report any issues or needs they face.

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Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

No County is currently approved for a Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss, which, when approved, allows CalFresh recipients more than 10 days to report food damage/loss and get their CalFresh replaced.

- **Background:**
  - Customers can report that their food was lost/damaged and get their CalFresh replaced *whenever they experience a loss.* They must report it to the county within 10 days of the loss/damage if their county isn't approved for a timely reporting waiver for Food Loss. Power outages, flooding, and evacuations are all events that can contribute to food loss/damage, in addition to fridge/freezer malfunction and other household emergencies.

- **CDSS Press Releases and Letters:**
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- **Counties with a Food Loss Waiver and Timeframe for Reporting Food Loss:**
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- **How do people apply:**
  - There are multiple ways customers can report that the food they bought with CalFresh was lost or damaged. Customers can contact the county CalFresh office to report the loss/damage; the county will have them fill out a form (CF 303) and return it to the county. You can no longer submit the form through GetCalFresh; learn more about how to upload the form through BenefitsCal here.

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Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county is approved for an automated Mass Replacement Waiver, which, when approved, automatically gives CalFresh recipients full or partial CalFresh benefits back.

- **Background:**
  - Rather than SNAP households reporting their food loss through an individual affidavit, California can request an automated mass replacement for households who suffered food losses due to a situation like a long power outage or natural disaster.
- **CDSS Press Releases and Letters:**
- **Zip Codes/Counties impacted:**
  - N/A
- **How do people apply:**
  - There is no need to apply. Food benefits are automatically given to eligible households in impacted zip codes.
    - But remember that any customer, regardless of whether they live in these zip codes, can report that their food was lost/damaged and get their CalFresh replaced whenever they experience a loss. They must report it to the county within 10 days of the loss/damage (unless they have a Timely Reporting Waiver For Food Loss, see pg 3). Power outages, flooding, fires, and evacuations are all events that can contribute to food loss/damage, in addition to fridge/freezer malfunction and other household emergencies.

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History of CA Disasters and CalFresh in 2025

January 2025

Disaster CalFresh

No county was operating Disaster CalFresh (but a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration with Individual Assistance (FEMA-4856-DR) for Los Angeles County was issued.

Hot and Prepared Foods

7 counties had a hot foods waiver.

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

Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

3 counties were approved for a Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss.

- Kern and San Bernardino
- Riverside

Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

13 counties were approved for an automated Mass Replacement Waiver.

- Butte, Fresno, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Mateo, Tuolumne, and Ventura
    - The waiver allowed for 40% of households' CalFresh allotment for the calendar month prior to January 6, 2025 to be automatically replaced without households having to submit paperwork to the county. The replacements were available on EBT cards on Friday, January 31, 2025.

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February 2025

Disaster CalFresh

53 Zip Codes in Los Angeles county were operating Disaster CalFresh.

CDSS's also got a waiver approved to postpone CalFresh and CalWORKs SAR 7s and redeterminations due in January. Ongoing CalFresh households in certain LA County zip codes will get 6 month extensions and their reports will be due in July, August, and September. You can learn more about CalFresh SAR 7/Recertification flexibilities from January-March for certain zip codes here.

Hot and Prepared Foods

7 counties had a hot foods waiver extension.

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

Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

2 counties were approved for a Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss extension.

- Los Angeles and Ventura

1 county was approved for a Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss

- Shasta

Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for an automated Mass Replacement Waiver.

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March 2025

Disaster CalFresh

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

Hot and Prepared Foods

No county was approved for a hot foods waiver.

Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for a Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss extension.

Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

8 counties were approved for an Automated Mass Replacement Waiver.

- El Dorado, Fresno, Mendocino, Placer, San Benito, San Mateo, Sierra, and Trinity

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April 2025

Disaster CalFresh

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

Hot and Prepared Foods

No county was approved for a hot foods waiver.

Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for a Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss extension.

Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

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May 2025

Disaster CalFresh

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

Hot and Prepared Foods

No county was approved for a hot foods waiver.

Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for a Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss extension.

Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

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June 2025

Disaster CalFresh

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

Hot and Prepared Foods

No county was approved for a hot foods waiver.

Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

Mono county was approved for a Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss.

Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

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July 2025

Disaster CalFresh

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

Hot and Prepared Foods

No county was approved for a hot foods waiver.

Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

Riverside, Shasta, and Siskiyou counties were approved for a Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss.

Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

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August 2025

Disaster CalFresh

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

Hot and Prepared Foods

No county was approved for a hot foods waiver.

Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

Riverside and Lake County were approved for a Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss.

Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

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September 2025

Disaster CalFresh

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

Hot and Prepared Foods

No county was approved for a hot foods waiver.

Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

Riverside and Calaveras/Fresno Counties were approved for a Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss.

Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

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October 2025

Disaster CalFresh

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

Hot and Prepared Foods

No county was approved for a hot foods waiver.

Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

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November 2025

Disaster CalFresh

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

Hot and Prepared Foods

No county was approved for a hot foods waiver.

Timely Reporting Waiver for Food Loss For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.

Automated Mass Replacement Waiver For Current CalFresh Recipients

No county was approved for Disaster CalFresh.