

Federal Shutdown's Impact on CalFresh

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are November CalFresh benefits delayed?

The federal government is shut down. Until the government reopens, hundreds of thousands of Sacramentans receiving CalFresh benefits will be delayed in November 2025. There are currently more than 270,000 people on CalFresh benefits in Sacramento County.

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 with your existing benefits as usual through the federal government shutdown. We will share more information if anything changes.

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 will 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. For a list of in-person locations, visit ha.sacounty.gov.

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 food assistance, call 2-1-1 or visit sacramentofoodbank.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. There is nothing the County or state can do to speed up benefits.

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.

