California Department of AGING

CALFRESH OUTREACH

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has contracted the California Department of Aging (CDA) to administer the CalFresh Program to qualifying California older adults. Previously, older adults in the state who received a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or a State Supplementary Payment (SSP) could only receive $10 as part of the cash out provision but in June 2019 this SSI/SSP exemption was reversed. Now eligible older adults can receive a monthly food benefit. This cash-out reversal and growth of CalFresh for older adults in California is called CalFresh Outreach.

CalFresh Outreach is carried out by 17 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), covering 33 counties, and their contracted providers. Each county is responsible for administering CalFresh benefits to eligible older adults. AAAs provide application assistance at local offices or at eligible sites or certain meeting venues. Participating AAAs are required to provide outreach and CalFresh application assistance. They track their application numbers, related challenges as well as other metrics and report them to the Health Program Specialist at CDA.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

The CalFresh Outreach Program helps older adults apply for regular food benefits (CalFresh). CalFresh wasn't available for older adults who received SSI/SSP until state law changed in 2019. Eligible older Californins have the lowest participation rates compared to other states - roughly 1.5 million older adults qualify but are not taking advantage of the CalFresh Program. The CalFresh Expansion Program was established to reach eligible older adults and help them apply for benefits to reduce food insecurity.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Individuals 60 years of age or older
- Income at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines (FPG)

ANNUAL PROGRAM FUNDING

$870,000

- CalFresh Outreach federal funds via the U.S. Department of Agriculture

$1,130,000

- State General Funds.

Allocation Formula

Base funding to participating AAAs and the remainder is allocated based on SSI/SSP recipients 65 and over.

Match Requirements

- AAAs have no match requirement
- CDA meets the match requirement with the State General Fund

Funding Cycle

October 1 – September 30

PROGRAM STATISTICS

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY)	2024*	2025*
Participants assisted with applications	39,917	54,730

*Participant numbers are approximations.

PROGRAM CODE

The CalFresh Outreach code is 3890300.

PROGRAM PAGE

Visit the CalFresh Outreach page for more details.