



# Getting Food Stamps to College Students

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## Combating California Student Food Insecurity

### Summary of this Update

Thousands of students in California, who have been approved for work, are today, eligible for Food Stamps in California. The Food Stamp program is also known as SNAP nationally and CalFresh in California.

In this update we will cover the major program that would make students eligible for CalFresh to combat college student food insecurity in California - Work Study.

## Work - Study

### Can a Student Approved for Work Study Get CalFresh?

Yes. MPP 63-406.212 states that a student who is approved for state or federally financed work study for the current school term, as defined by the institution of higher education, and can anticipate working during the term is exempt from the student work requirement.

### How Long Can the Student Approved for Work Study Get CalFresh?

The exemption begins the month the school term starts or the month work study is approved, whichever

is later. The exemption continues until the end of the month the school term ends, or it becomes known that the student refused a work assignment. The exemption shall not continue between terms when there is a break of a full month or longer unless the student is participating in work study during the break.

### Does the Student Have to be Working at a Work Study Slot?

No. An exemption may be granted on this basis if a student has been approved for federal or state work-study, as defined by the institution of higher education, even if the student's work has not actually begun, so long as the student anticipates being assigned to a work study job during the term.

### Does the Student Have to Anticipate Working at a Slot During the Semester?

Yes. The work study rule is clarified further in ACIN I-89-15 which states that if a student is approved for state or federally financed work study during a specific school term, anticipates working during that term, and has not refused a work assignment, that student remains eligible for this exemption. Additionally, the fact that no jobs are available does not disqualify the student from receiving the exemption. Many students have to wait for a job opening and sometimes no job becomes available. If the student is approved for work study and a job does not materialize, a student is not penalized.

**NOTE:** The two key conditions for this exemption are “approved” and “anticipate”. Per state regulations, the definition of approved is defined by the local institution of higher education. The definition of anticipate is a student who can expect or foresee being assigned a work study job. Until explicitly denied the student can fairly anticipate that they may still be offered a work study job.

### Can the Student Anticipate Working at a Work Study Slot Even if a Slot is Not Available?

Yes. If the local institution of higher education has approved a student for work study even when work study jobs may not be available (e.g. due to funding constraints), the student is approved and can anticipate that the work study job may become available because the institution of higher education has not denied them. In this case, if they do not plan to turn down a job that may become available, the exemption is applicable to the student.

### What Proof Does the Student Need to Show Approval of Work-Study and that the Student Anticipates Working?

1. The FALSA application approval, that includes work-study is proof that work study has been approved.
2. A statement from the student that “I anticipate working at a work-study slot during this semester.

## How to Apply and Get CalFresh Right Away?

You can apply for CalFresh on-line by going to [www.ccwro.org](http://www.ccwro.org) and scrolling down to:

#### On-Line Application for Welfare

- CalFresh/CalFresh;
- CalWORKs and
- Medi-Cal

If a student is eligible for CalFresh Expedited Service (CF-ES), then they must get CalFresh within three days. A student is eligible for expedited services if they answer “yes” to either of these two (2) questions:

- Is your monthly income is less than \$150 and you have \$100 or less in cash? Yes\_\_No\_\_

- Is your housing costs (rent/mortgage and utilities) are more than your monthly income and cash on hand? Yes\_\_No\_\_

The county has to issue benefits as long as the applicant verified her or his identity. Identity can also be verified through the social security number of the applicant.

### Can The County Deny CF-ES?

No. The applicant has 30 days to provide any verification that the county may request with a DSS form known as CW 2200. That is, of course, if the household meets the expedited services criteria - is your monthly income is less than \$150 and you have \$100 or less in cash OR housing costs (rent/mortgage and utilities) are more than your monthly income and cash?

This rule is put in place to make sure folks do not endure food insecurity while the county is verifying eligibility.

## What to do if the County Does Not Give me CalFresh in Working Three Days?

The applicant has a right to an expedited hearing.

The Expedited Hearing Request form can be found at [www.ccwro.org](http://www.ccwro.org). This is a fillable form.

The form should be downloaded, completed and faxed to DSS at 916-651-2789.

The form also has space to designate a representative.

CCWRO would be glad to represent anybody who filed an expedited hearing.

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Also fax a copy of the request to: 916-736-2645

<http://ccwro.org/advocateresources/welfare-advocate-forms>