



CalFresh Access for College Students

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Current CalFresh Efforts

- Send letters to FAFSA applicants with **zero EFC**
 - Temporary expansion of SNAP rules
 - Encourage students to apply via [GetCalFresh.org](https://www.getcalfresh.org)
 - Letters serve as proof of temporary eligibility for CalFresh
- Send letters to recipients of a **TANF-funded Cal Grant**
 - Students receiving Cal Grant A or B tuition award qualify for exemption to Student Eligibility Rule
 - Pursuant to AB 214 (Chapter 134, Statutes of 2017)

Statewide CalFresh Call Center Proposal

- Become official CDSS outreach contractor – draw down matching federal funds for outreach
- Hire limited-term staff (one-time funding) to expand Call Center and provide one-on-one assistance to college students
 - Educate students about CalFresh benefits and the Student Eligibility Rule
 - Assist students with completing the CalFresh application
 - Assist students with mandatory verifications and preparing for interview
 - Outreach directly to students that are likely eligible for CalFresh

Short-Term Strategies

- **Data sharing between CSAC, institutions, and local human services agencies**
 - CSAC and institutions have student information (i.e., Work Study, recipient of TANF-funded Cal Grant, participation in CTE programs, etc.) that eligibility workers need to verify exemptions
 - Student Verification Hub
- **Utilize TANF funds for other financial aid programs**
 - TANF recipients are exempt from the Student Eligibility Rule
 - Cal Grant Program partially funded by TANF but community college students cannot benefit
- **Horizontal Integration with the FAFSA**
 - Warm hand-off between FAFSA application and CalFresh application
- **Improve the transition from Free/Reduced Price Meals to CalFresh**

Long-Term Strategies

- **Permanent exemption to the Student Eligibility Rule for Students with a 0 EFC**
 - More students with documented need eligible for SNAP/CalFresh
- **Elimination of the Student Eligibility Rule altogether**
 - More students eligible for SNAP/CalFresh
 - Students are treated the same as other applicants
 - Less verification required
 - Reassess interview requirements
- **Automatic/presumptive eligibility through existing financial aid systems**
 - FAFSA already contains extensive information about student's financial circumstances – single application for financial aid and public benefits