

New CalFresh Policy: Gross Income Limit Raised to 200% FPL

Beginning July 1, 2014 the gross income limit for the TANF-funded benefit that confers categorical eligibility will be raised to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

- Practically speaking, this change will raise the CalFresh gross income test from 130% FPL to 200% FPL.
 - The net income limit of 100% FPL will still apply.
 - As is current policy, there is no gross income limit for households that include an elderly or disabled member.
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*This change will result in a significant number of Californians becoming newly eligible for CalFresh!
The higher gross income limit will allow households with high need and high expenses, such as child care costs, to access critical nutrition benefits.*

Maximizing Impact of the New Gross Income Limit

Many newly eligible households will have relatively higher incomes (e.g. gross income between 130% and 200% FPL). In order to meet the net income limit of 100% FPL they will need to claim allowable deductions.

What is an Allowable Deduction?

Households can deduct certain expenses from their gross income to determine their net monthly income. Claiming these expenses will increase the likelihood that a household is able to meet the net income limit.

Income Deductions for CalFresh Households

- Earned income deduction for working households
- Dependent care deduction for working households
- Homeless shelter deduction
- Excess shelter deduction
- Utility deduction

Special Income Deductions for CalFresh Households with Elderly or Disabled Member(s)

- Excess medical expense deduction

Background

The 2014-15 State Budget included a provision to increase the gross income limit to 200% of the FPL for the TANF -funded service that confers categorical eligibility for all CalFresh households. This action supersedes the provisions of AB 191 (Bocanegra – 2013) which increased the gross income limit to 200% of the FPL for the TANF- funded service that conferred categorical eligibility for those CalFresh households with at least one member that received or was eligible to receive Medi-Cal.

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