

From: [CFO Resource Hub](#)
Subject: CalFresh Benefits Delay Info and Emergency Food Action Plan
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 7:34:22 AM

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Hello Campus Partners,

Thank you for your time, energy, and maximum efforts to launch this new academic year 2025-2026. We continue to be moved and awed by the way you and your teams are showing up for our students and each other. We honor you fully and appreciate you deeply.

We write to inform you that:

- If the federal government shutdown does not end by October 23, **November CalFresh Food benefits will be temporarily delayed statewide. This delay affects only the timing of November benefit payments - not eligibility or enrollment.**
- October benefits are not affected, and **students newly approved for October will receive those benefits as usual.**
- **Students should continue to apply for or recertify their CalFresh benefits. County offices are still processing applications, expedited requests, and renewals.**
- **CDSS is sending direct text and email updates about the potential delay in November benefits to CalFresh households this week (October 21–25)** in multiple languages. Messages are being sent based on each household's regular benefit issuance date, so timing will vary.
- When the federal government reopens, CalFresh Food benefits will resume automatically. Any delayed November benefits will be issued retroactively to students' EBT CalFresh cards. **No one will permanently lose their benefits due to the shutdown.**

While the shutdown continues, our communities' & campuses' timely actions to prepare will support students to have continued equitable access to food resources.

In partnership with CSU Office of the Chancellor, CCC Office of the Chancellor, UC Office of the President, and the California Association of Food Banks, the following actions are recommended to plan now for weekly emergency food disruptions to your food pantry for November:

On-Campus Actions:

- **Confirm the team(s)** that will be point for this campus-wide effort:
 - a. Share this communication with your campus student care and emergency response leadership/teams.
 - b. Some cases name these as "Students of Concern," "Crisis Response & Resolution," etc.

- c. These may include, but are not limited to: Supervisor of Basic Needs Center, Financial Aid Leadership, Dean of Students, VC/VP Student Affairs, VC/VP/Diversity Officers, Case/Care Management, Counseling & Psychological Services, etc.
- **Confirm the resources** that will be activated and coordinated for this effort:
 - a. Ask your campus administration what emergency resources are available to fund additional food pantry purchases or emergency grants for students as needed. Including campus fundraising or soliciting direct donations to basic needs programs.
 - b. For campuses with meal swipes, set up give away meal swipe cards or utilize donated swipes for students impacted by the delay. Reach out to on-campus dining now to see if they can expand support during this time due to the CalFresh gap.
- **Confirm a timeline** that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Identify on and off-campus available resources whose lead or team has confirmed will have the capacity to support the estimated community members who could reach out.
 - b. Confirm a timeline of actions with clear leads and descriptions of actions that will be taken.
- **Confirm a communication strategy:**
 - a. Include dates and times of disruption and alternative local resources like food banks, free on-campus meal options, and events with free meals.
 - b. Ensure students, staff, and instructors are aware.
 - c. Consider an emergency food drive to collect stock for your food pantry and grocery gift cards.
- **Track, Document, and be prepared for the reporting & stories** that need to be shared about this community experience:
 - a. Impact via simple counts of students served, amount of food given out, etc.
 - b. Partner impact documenting resources:
 - i. [The Western Center on Law & Poverty: Hunger and Food Insecurity Survey](#)
 - c. Reminder, all three public segments are required to submit a report to our CA State Legislature about our Basic Needs programs and services. Examples: [CCC Report\(s\)](#), [CSU Report\(s\)](#), and [UC Report\(s\)](#).

Off-Campus Actions:

- **Confirm the team(s)**
 - a. Identify and confirm your off-campus team/partners
 - b. Example: County Social Services, County Food Bank, etc.
- **Confirm the resources**
 - a. Confirm capacity and availability of off-campus resources
 - b. Coordinate early with the local food bank to plan for increased food distributions, especially in early November, when CalFresh delays may be most significant.
- **Confirm a timeline**

- a. Plan for flexibility in your response. The timing of benefit releases may shift depending on when the federal government reopens, so be prepared for a day-to-day or week-to-week adjustment period.
- **Confirm the communication strategy**
 - a. Share updates from CDSS and CHC CalFresh Outreach with your teams and students to ensure consistent messaging.
- **Track, Document, and Prepare to Report & Tell the Stories**
 - a. Confirm with your off-campus team/partners what tracking, documenting, and preparation will be carried out for future reporting and storytelling.

Contacts & Resources:

- Campus emergency food planning:
 - Contact your system's Basic Needs coordination team for guidance and statewide alignment.
- Local food bank coordination:
 - Find your local food bank: <https://www.cafoodbanks.org/find-food/>.
- Immediate food assistance:
 - Dial 2-1-1 or visit 211ca.org to connect with local food pantries, meal programs, and other essential services. Available 24/7 and in multiple languages.
- CalFresh benefit questions:
 - CHC CFO Resource Hub Support Desk: <https://calfreshoutreach.org/support-desk/>.
- CDSS Resources
 - [CDSS Home Page](#)
 - CalFresh & Government Shutdown [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

We thank you each for taking care of yourselves and your teams during these times. It is essential that, amidst the changing and uncertain landscapes we will navigate ahead, we do so with the commitment to minimize harm and maximize care. We will continue to share major updates as we receive them.

Warmly,
Che Yang

On behalf of CHC CalFresh Outreach and Resource Hub, in partnership with:

CSU Office of the Chancellor · CCC Office of the Chancellor · UC Office of the President · California Association of Food Banks

Center for Healthy Communities (CHC)

California State University, Chico

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CHC envisions all Californians with equitable resources to live their healthiest lives.

I acknowledge I am residing on the unceded land originally occupied by the first people of this area, the Mechoopda.