

To qualify for CalFresh as a Student you must satisfy all three of the following eligibility requirements:

1. BASIC HOUSEHOLD ELIGIBILITY

Your household* income must be under the limits listed in the following table:

Effective October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023

Number of People in Household	Gross Monthly Income	Max CalFresh Allotment
1	\$2,266	\$281
2	\$3,052	\$516
3	\$3,840	\$740
4	\$4,626	\$939
5	\$5,412	\$1,116

**CalFresh defines "household" as a person living alone or a group of people living together who purchase and prepare food together.*

2. LEGAL STATUS

Your household must include at least one U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.

**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) students are not eligible for this federally funded program.*

3. STUDENT EXEMPTION

If you are enrolled at least half-time (6 units at SMC) and are between ages 18 – 49, you are considered a student under the CalFresh program and therefore **must meet at least one** of the "student exemptions" below.

STUDENT EXEMPTIONS:

- Work 20+ hours a week
- Employed at Santa Monica College
- Cal Grant A or B recipient
- Eligible for Federal Work Study
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$0
- Enrolled in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- Participant in Guardian Scholars Program
- Participating in a Research or Teaching Assistantship
- CalWORKs Recipient or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)
- Student with a child between 6 – 12 years old with no adequate child care
- Unable to work and registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)
- Enrolled in a CalFresh Local Employment Program that Increases Employability

Application Process

If you believe you meet the above Student Eligibility guidelines, you can apply for CalFresh using the Santa Monica College portal via this QR CodeCalFresh using the Santa Monica College portal via this QR code.



STEP 1

During your application, you will need to upload the required verification documents. The documents you provide will depend on which “student exemption” you satisfy.

Examples of verification documents include:

- Copy of ID and Social Security Number
- Proof of address
- Rent/mortgage receipt
- Most recent utility bill(s)
- Pay stubs of income from the last 30-days
- Financial aid award letter and class schedule

STEP 2

During your application, you will submit your availability for a brief phone interview with a county eligibility worker. After submitting your application, the county will notify you by phone or mail with your interview date and time. *Failure to attend this interview will likely result in a rejected application.*

STEP 3

If approved, you will be required to complete the following:

- **SAR 7 Report.** Six months after your initial application is approved, the county will mail the SAR 7 to the mailing address you provided at the time of your application. This report will help the county adjust your benefits based on any changes to your situation in the last six months.
- **Recertification Application.** After a year of receiving benefits, the county will mail you a packet and schedule a follow-up interview. You must complete the Recertification Application to continue receiving CalFresh.



FAQs

How quickly will I get benefits?

The County has 30 days to approve or deny your case. An applicant household with “very low income” and few resources may qualify for expedited services.

Will CalFresh affect my household’s financial aid or taxes?

CalFresh is not considered income and does not affect your household’s financial aid or taxes.

Do I need to report changes to my income, financial aid, or school enrollment while enrolled in CalFresh?

Yes. The county will give you more information about when and how to report changes once you are approved.

I meet the CalFresh Income and Citizenship eligibility requirements, but I am not considered a student due to my age or credit enrollment. Can I still apply for CalFresh?

It is possible that you qualify for CalFresh under a different category. To learn more about non-student eligibility, visit cdss.ca.gov/calfresh

I still have questions about CalFresh, need assistance with an application or want to learn about other food support resources. What do I do?

Santa Monica College has dedicated Basic Needs Counselors who can assist you with CalFresh questions, applications, or connect you to other support resources. To get connected, visit the on-campus SMC Bodega and ask to speak with a Basic Needs Counselor, or schedule a virtual appointment by visiting the Basic Needs webpage and clicking the ‘Make an Appointment’ tab. Follow the QR Codes below to learn more.

CONTACT INFORMATION

310-434-3100

foodsecurity@smc.edu



Basic Needs
Resources



SMC Food Security
Programs



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