

DEPARTMENT OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



August 5, 1975

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 75-162

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM - SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM OUTREACH PROJECT

REFERENCE:

As part of the State's efforts to inform low income households of the availability and benefits of the Food Stamp Program, we will be undertaking outreach projects with public and private agencies. This is to inform you that the first of these projects is being implemented.

We are mailing copies of the "Food Stamps Can Help" brochure to all sponsors for the Summer Feeding Program asking that they be distributed to the children participating in the program to take home to their parents. As a result of this project, you may experience an increase in the number of program inquiries and applications.

We will keep you informed of all state outreach projects as they are implemented. If you encounter any problems as a result of this project or have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Dave Watanabe, Food Stamp Outreach Coordinator at (916) 322-4403.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis O. Flatt".

DENNIS O. FLATT
Chief Deputy Director

Enclosure

cc: FNS, USDA
CWDA

OBSOLETE

Superseded by

ACL²¹ 77-15

Issued

3-17-77

The Food Stamp Program

The federal government sponsors the Food Stamp Program to meet the nutritional needs of low-income people who cannot afford to buy enough food. Race, color, religious creed, national origin, and political beliefs have nothing to do with food stamp eligibility. If you need help and you meet the eligibility requirements, you have a legal right to apply for food stamps.

Facts About Food Stamp Eligibility

You may be considered as a food stamp household alone, with your family, or with a group of persons who buy, store, and cook their food together and share expenses.

You must be a resident of the county where you apply for food stamps.

You must have access to cooking facilities in your home, unless you live in a state-approved drug addiction or alcoholic treatment center or unless you are 60 or older and are eligible for meals-on-wheels or communal dining.

You and the persons you live with may not have more than a total of \$1,500 worth of assets such as cash savings, bank and checking accounts, U.S. savings bonds, stocks, and bonds. This does not count your home, lot, car, life insurance, household goods, or personal belongings. If you live with at least one other person who is applying for food stamps with you and one of you is 60 or older, your total assets may be worth \$3,000.

Your total income minus certain deductions such as taxes, medical costs, and certain child care and housing costs must be within income limits set by the federal government. These limits are based on the number of persons in your household.

If you are between 18 and 64, you will probably have to register for work with the State Employment Development Department to be eligible for food stamps. The county welfare department will decide if this rule applies to you.

If you are an aged, blind, or disabled adult and you receive Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP) benefits, you are not eligible; the bonus value of food stamps is included in your monthly SSI/SSP check. Persons who live with you, however, may apply for food stamps.

How to Apply for Food Stamps

Have the head of your household go to your local welfare office and ask for a food stamp application.

Take papers such as recent wage slips, earnings and deductions statements, educational grant award letters, Social Security or Veterans award letters, and self-employment bookkeeping records which show your income and the income of each person you live with.

Take a list which shows how much you and the persons you live with pay for rent, utilities, phone, and doctor bills.

If you cannot apply for food stamps yourself because of work, health, or a specific transportation problem, you may ask a responsible adult to apply for you. Be sure that person takes all of the information described above to the welfare office.

Ask for help if you have any questions about the application form.

You will usually find out if you are eligible within 30 days after you turn in your application.

If you need food immediately, ask to talk to a county eligibility worker and tell that person why you need food right away. You may qualify to receive food stamps or another form of help that day.

How the Food Stamp Program Works

You and the persons you live with are called a food stamp "household."

Your household will buy or be given a certain amount of food stamps. If you buy food stamps, you will pay less than the food stamps are worth. This "bonus value" will save you money and enable you to buy more food.

You will buy your food stamps directly from the county or through agents such as banks, credit unions, or post offices.

The amount of food stamps and the price of food stamps for your household will depend on how many persons you live with, how much you earn together, and how many allowable income deductions you have.

You can buy food stamps once or twice a month and you may choose to buy all, 3/4, 1/2, or 1/4 of the amount of food stamps your household is eligible to receive.

If anyone in your household receives a welfare payment, you may be able to have the purchase price of your food stamps deducted from your welfare payment. If you do this, you must buy the full amount of stamps your household is eligible to receive.

What to Do if the County Says You Are Not Eligible

You may apply again in a few months. Changes in eligibility tables are made every January 1st and July 1st due to changes in the cost of living.

If you do not think you were treated fairly, for any reason, you may request a fair hearing by writing to:

Public Inquiry and Response
Department of Benefit Payments
744 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Explain in your letter why you are dissatisfied.

Your Responsibilities

Tell the county welfare department about any changes in your household size and income. You may telephone, write a letter, or go to the welfare office. Be sure to let them know about the change within ten days after it happens. Use this check list as a reminder.

Someone leaves or joins your household.

You move.

Someone in your household changes jobs, quits, or finds work.

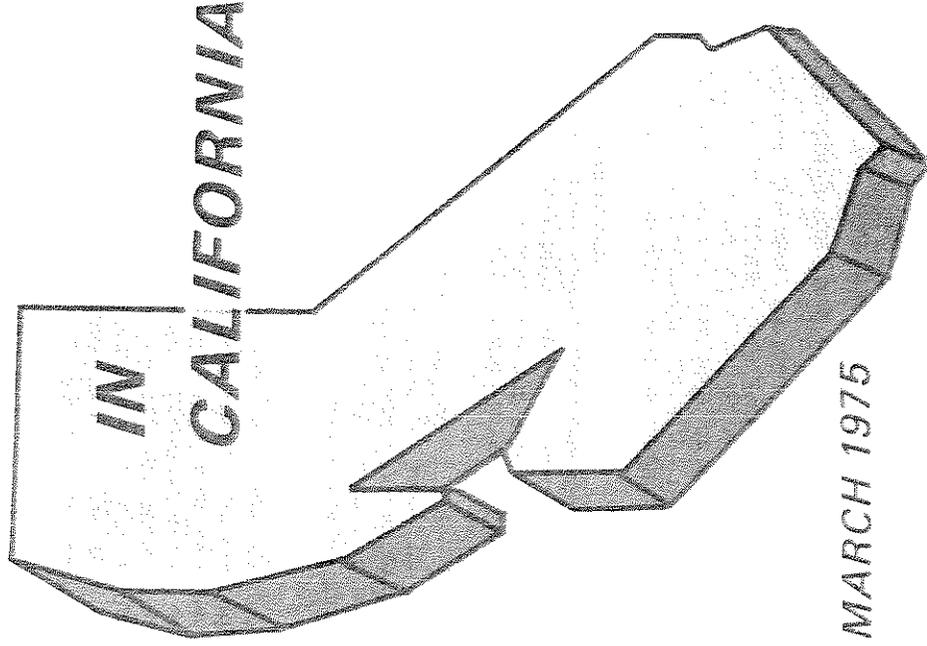
Someone in your household receives a one-time payment such as an insurance settlement.

Your total monthly deductible expenses change by more than \$25. These expenses include child care which is necessary because you work or attend school, medical expenses, rent or housing payments including utilities, and court ordered child support and alimony payments.

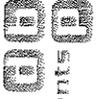
Your gross monthly income changes by more than \$25.

If a change not mentioned above occurs and you are not sure if you should report it, do within ten days.

FOOD STAMPS CAN HELP



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MARCH 1975