



FAQ

Student Eligibility for CalFresh

Does a student need to be working in a work study job to qualify for CalFresh?

No, the student does not need to be working in a work study job to qualify for the work study exemption. As long as the student is eligible for work study and *intends* to find a work study placement, they will qualify for this exemption and could be eligible if they meet the other CalFresh requirements. However, if the client refuses work study or a work study placement, they will no longer qualify for this exemption but may be eligible under other student exemption rules.

What happens if the students has a roommate? Do they have to apply together?

It will depend on how the household prepares meals. If the student and the roommate cook and prepare meals together, they must apply together.

What happens during the summer months? Are students still eligible for CalFresh?

The student status is reported at application and at the recertification. If a student is determined to be an eligible college student, they will continue to be eligible even during the summer and winter breaks. Please note work study students must be working over breaks to maintain eligibility, unless they meet another student exemption.

What happens for students who live on campus during the school year but during the summer/winter breaks leave San Diego County or California? Are they still eligible during these breaks?

These students will still be eligible to use their CalFresh benefits in another county or state during these breaks and will continue to be considered San Diego residents. Students should contact the Access Call Center (1-866-262-9881) and inform the County about any mailing address changes to ensure the student does not miss any relevant letters from the County about their case. If the student does not intend to return to San Diego County but they still live in California, they should contact the County about transferring their case to another county. If the student is leaving California permanently, they will need to reapply in the new state.

What is EOPS? What is CARE?

The Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) is a state-funded program of support services are specifically designed for students who are economically and educationally disadvantaged. The services provided vary by school but they tend to include career counseling, grant opportunities, study tools and more. The CARE (Cooperative Agencies and Resources for Education) is for students participating in the EOPS program who are single parents and are receiving CalWORKs. If the student is part of the EOPS, they will be exempt from the work requirements for college students and as long as they meet the other eligibility guidelines for CalFresh, can apply for benefits. Students who are part of the CARE program should already be receiving both CalFresh and CalWORKs.

What is WIOA? What programs qualify under WIOA?

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) amends the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. The WIOA offers a range of workforce development activities including but not limited to one-stop career centers, training and employment programs, and youth workforce activities. If a student is enrolled in a WIOA activity, they will meet one of the exemptions and could be eligible for CalFresh. It is the responsibility of the county eligibility worker to determine if the workforce development activity the students is participating in is a part of WIOA.