



Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

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Press Release

Not for op-ed

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALFRESH FOOD BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR CALIFORNIA FIRE VICTIMS Beginning 10/25/17

The Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency is announcing that Mendocino and other fire-affected Counties have been approved to provide disaster food assistance under the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, has approved **Disaster CalFresh** for Mendocino as a result of the multiple wildfires burning throughout Northern California which began on October 8, 2017.

Any individual or family that resided or worked in Sonoma, Napa, Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Nevada or Yuba Counties before the disaster and was negatively affected by the disaster may be eligible to receive Disaster CalFresh assistance.

Disaster CalFresh benefits are provided via an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which is a debit-like card that can be used to purchase food items at grocery stores and other authorized retailers. Additionally, Disaster CalFresh and CalFresh may be used to purchase hot foods at participating retailers in the disaster region (not statewide).

Individuals and families may be eligible for Disaster CalFresh if the household experienced at least one of the following as a direct result of the wildfires:

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- Damage to or destruction of the home or self-employment business;
- Loss or inaccessibility of income including a reduction or termination of income or a significant delay in receiving income due to disaster related problems; or
- Disaster-related expenses (home or business repairs, temporary shelter, evacuation, etc.) that are not expected to be reimbursed during the disaster benefit period.

Eligibility is based on available income, minus disaster-related expenses that are unreimbursed. All financial resources, except cash on hand and bank accounts, will be excluded from the eligibility determination. Most Disaster CalFresh benefits will be available within three days of the date of application.

Household Size	Monthly Income Limit	D-CalFresh Allotment
1	\$1,700	\$192
2	\$2,049	\$352
3	\$2,397	\$504
4	\$2,755	\$640
5	\$3,133	\$760
6	\$3,510	\$913
7	\$3,858	\$1,009
8	\$4,207	\$1,153
Each Additional Person	+\$349	+\$144

Verification rules are eased during a disaster; however, it is necessary to verify the identity of the applicant. Applicants may provide photo proof of identity, such as a driver's license or other picture ID. If a picture ID is not available, providing items such as utility bills or other similar documents will work. Applicants must also bring some document that verifies their home address or work in the disaster area prior to the disaster (such as utility bills, insurance bills, paystubs, etc.). Disaster CalFresh applicants must have lived in or worked in the disaster area at the time of the wildfires and must have suffered loss or damages as a

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direct result of the wildfires. Affected residents who currently receive CalFresh may be eligible to additional benefits through the Disaster CalFresh program, up to the maximum benefit for the household size during the month of the disaster.

Individuals and families seeking assistance may apply for Disaster CalFresh beginning Wednesday, October 25, 2017, through Wednesday, November 1, 2017. When applying for Disaster CalFresh benefits online, or at the Local Assistance Center, applicants will still need to visit a local employment and Family Assistance Services office in person to complete a face-to-face interview, as well as to provide necessary verifications.

How to Apply In-Person

Applications will be available at the following locations:

Local Assistance Center

Mendocino College (Building 6220)

1000 Hensley Creek Rd.

Ukiah, CA 95482

Mon - Sun 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., through October 30

Employment and Family Assistance Services

737 South State St.

Ukiah, CA 95482

Mon - Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

(707)463-7700

Employment and Family Assistance Services

472 East Valley St.

Willits, CA 95490

Mon - Thurs 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(707)456-3700

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Employment and Family Assistance Services

764 South Franklin St.

Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Mon - Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(707)962-1000

How to Apply Online

Individuals and families may also apply for D-CalFresh online at:

<http://www.c4yourself.com/>

How to Apply Statewide

Individuals and families displaced by the wildfires may apply online or visit any human or social services agency across the state. Please check local listings for contact information.

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