

The CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program

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I. Summary

This handbook has been updated to provide staff with information on the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program (RMP).

All updates are in purple font.

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II. General

The CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) is an optional county program that allows CalFresh participants who are elderly (60 years of age or older), disabled and/or homeless to use their Electronic Benefits Card (EBT) to purchase prepared or ready-to-eat meals at participating restaurants.

Participation in the RMP is limited to counties authorized by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to administer the program. Restaurants interested in becoming an RMP participant must have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on file with the participating county, and must also be authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and

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Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) as a **restaurant** meal provider. Alameda County has been an authorized county **since 2012 and continues to work** with local restaurants to assist our elderly, disabled and homeless **participants** with food access.

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III. Eligibility Requirements for CalFresh Participants

CalFresh participants are eligible for the Restaurant Meals Program if they meet any one of the following criteria;

- 60 years of age or older
- Disabled*;
- Homeless; or
- The spouse of an elderly, disabled, or homeless member.

*The **definition of disabled for the** CalFresh Program is limited to individuals who :

- Receive **Federal** disability or **blindness benefits under** the Social Security Act
- Receive disability retirement benefits from a **government** agency **due to** a permanent disability
- Receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits or Social Security disability or blindness payments
- Receive State disability or blindness payments based on SSI rules
- Receive an annuity payment under the Railroad Retirement Act and are eligible for Medicare or are considered disabled under SSI
- Receive Interim Assistance benefits pending receipt of SSI, **provided the eligibility to receive those benefits is based on a disability or blindness criteria used under the Social Security Act. Note:** Interim Assistance can be paid as either GA or CalWORKs. These individuals should be disabled based on Medi-Cal disability rules.
- Receive disability-related medical **coverage under** Medi-Cal
- Receive disability-based General Assistance (GA) benefits, **provided the eligibility to receive those benefits is based on the disability or blindness criteria used under the Social Security Act**
- Meet the criteria for Veteran's Benefits **which include;**
 - Veterans **who are totally disabled, permanently homebound, or in need of regular aid and attendance**
 - **Surviving spouse or child of a veteran who is receiving** Veteran Administration (VA) benefits and is considered permanently disabled

Once a household has established eligibility, the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system must be updated to reflect this change.

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IV. Process to Update the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card

When a household becomes eligible for the RMP, the EBT card must be updated in CalWIN to reflect the changed status. This would also need to be done if the household loses eligibility for the program (ex. a homeless individual who finds housing).

To change the status for an RMP eligible recipient, The EST shall:

1. Go to the Maintain Card Requests window and select "Yes" from the drop down menu in the Referred for Restaurant Meals field.
2. Save the record and the EBT system will update overnight as part of the batch process

RMP Approval Notices

CalFresh recipients approved for the RMP must be sent the Restaurant Meals Program Participation approval notice (63-56); this notice also informs RMP recipients that they may continue to use their current EBT card at grocery stores, farmer's markets, and other locations that transact CalFresh benefits.

The Restaurant Meals Program Participation notification form (63-56) is available in CalWIN and must be manually generated.

To manually generate the RMP notification form the EST shall;

1. Go to Print a Form/Other Correspondence Manually window
2. Select "Forms" from the drop down menu in the Correspondence Type field
3. Enter the case number in the Case # field
4. Press the "Find" button in the Correspondence # field
5. Enter form number "63-56" in the Correspondence # field and press Search; the form number (63-56) and name (Restaurant Meals Program New Eligible Change) will populate
6. Press the "Select" button and the Correspondence Details screen will appear
7. Press "Print" to print the form, review it for accuracy and send to the RMP household

Households That Lose RMP Eligibility

If a household becomes ineligible for the RMP, the CalWIN system must be updated. To update CalWIN to reflect this change,

The EST shall:

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1. Go to the Maintain Card Requests window and select "No" from the drop down menu *in the Referred for Restaurant Meals field*
2. Save the record and the EBT system will update overnight as part of the batch process

RMP Program Change Notification

CalFresh recipients who are no longer eligible for the RMP must be sent the Restaurant Meals Program Change notice (Form 63-57) to inform the RMP recipient they are no longer eligible for the program and will not be able to purchase prepared or ready-to-eat meals under the RMP.

The Restaurant Meals Program Participation change notification form (63-57) is available in CalWIN and must be manually generated.

To manually generate the RMP Change notice (Form 63-57),
The EST shall:

1. Go to Print a Form/Other Correspondence Manually window
2. Select "Forms" from the drop down menu in the Correspondence Type field
3. Enter the case number in the Case # field
4. Press the "Find" button in the Correspondence # field
5. Enter form number "63-57" in the Correspondence # field and press Search; the form number (63-57) and name (Restaurant Meals Program Change in Participation) will populate
6. Press the "Select" button and the Correspondence Details screen will appear
7. Press "Print" to print the form, review it for accuracy and send to the RMP household

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V. Resources

The Food Assistance page on the public-facing website provides users with information on the RMP, including a list of participating restaurants and how business owners interested in becoming a participating restaurant can apply.

Below is a link to the Restaurant Meals Program flyer. Staff is encouraged to share the flyer with elderly, disabled and homeless CalFresh participants. The flyer also includes a list of participating restaurants. Should staff encounter businesses interested in becoming a participating restaurant meal provider, the RMP Business Outreach flyer is a valuable resource to share.

Restaurant Meals Program Flyer

Restaurant Meals Business Outreach Flyer

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VI. References

MPP 63-102 (e) (2)
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