# **Proposed State Legislation – 2019-2020**

## Senate

1. [**SB 173**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB173)([**Dodd**](https://sd03.senate.ca.gov/))*CalFresh: postsecondary student eligibility: workstudy*

Would require the Department of Social Services to create a standardized form to be used by public colleges and universities to verify the workstudy eligibility of students who are approved and anticipate participating in state or federal workstudy and would require public colleges and universities to distribute the form with information to complete the form to students approved for approved workstudy.

**Location:** Referred to Assembly Committee on Human Services

1. [**SB 285**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB285)([**Wiener**](https://sd11.senate.ca.gov/))*CalFresh Connect*

Establishes accountability goals to ensure that all eligible Californians have efficient, equitable access to CalFresh by phone, online, and in person through dignified means and within an integrated safety net that mitigates poverty and supports health.

**Location:** Awaiting Senate Floor vote

1. [**SB 470**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB470)([**Skinner**](http://sd09.senate.ca.gov/)) *Electronic benefits transfer system*

Require the EBT system to limit the purchase of food through an online transaction only to retailers that are authorized to accept CalFresh benefits by the USDA and that comply with various requirements, including, providing reasonable access to return or exchange food within 4 hours of receipt of the food. It would also require CDSS, in consultation with the California Office of Systems Integration and other relevant stakeholders, to establish the qualifications, and process, for approving retailers to accept, and standards for accepting, online cash benefits payments through the EBT system.

**Location:** Set for hearing 5/16

## Assembly

1. [**AB 341**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB341)([**Maienschein**](https://ad77.asmrc.org/))*CalHEERS: application for CalFresh*

Would require an individual‘s application for health care benefits to be transferred to the County Human Services Agency of residence when the individual opts into applying for CalFresh benefits It also requires the county, to treat the information as an application for CalFresh benefits and to process it.

**Location:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee; suspense file.

1. [**AB 494**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB494)([**Berman**](https://a24.asmdc.org/))*CalFresh: eligibility: shelter expense deductions*

Would maximize CalFresh eligibility among people with excess shelter expenses providing that they have the minimal verification required by federal law. Allows counties to request more verification if questionable.

**Location:** Referred to Committee on Human Services

1. [**AB 612**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB612) ([**Weber**](http://asmdc.org/members/a79/)) *CalFresh: Restaurant Meals Program*

Would allow any of the 119 Community Colleges to enter into an agreement with CDSS to establish a CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program (RMP).

**Location:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee; suspense file.

1. [**AB 942**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB942) ([**Weber**](http://asmdc.org/members/a79/)) *CalFresh: Restaurant Meals Program*

Would extend access to the Restaurant Meal Program (RMP) to all CalFresh recipients who are elderly, disabled or homeless regardless of which county they live in.

**Location:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee; suspense file.

1. [**AB 1022**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1022)([**Wicks**](https://a15.asmdc.org/))*CalFresh: California Antihunger Response and Employment Training Act of 2019*

Would prevent the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Able Body Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit from impacting low-income recipients of CalFresh.

**Location:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee; suspense file.

1. [**AB 1229**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1229) ([**Wicks**](https://a15.asmdc.org/)) *End Foster Youth Student Hunger in California Act of 2019*

Would ensure that former foster youth are not denied CalFresh benefits because they have received transitional housing support or chose to take an off-campus internship.

**Location:** Referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee; suspense file.

1. [**AB 1278**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1278) ([**Gabriel**](https://a45.asmdc.org/)) *CalFresh Access for College Students*

Would require each campus of the California State University and the California Community Colleges, and would request each campus of the University of California, to include on the internet website-based account for an enrolled student notification of, and a link to information on, specified public services and programs, including the CalFresh program.

**Location:** House Floor; First reading

1. [**AB 1377**](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB1377) ([**Wicks**](https://a15.asmdc.org/)) *CalFresh*

Would require, on and after July 1, 2020, except as specified, if a county is informed that a child meets federal eligibility criteria for free and reduced-price meals, the child to be deemed categorically eligible for the CalFresh program and the parent or guardian to be notified of this determination. The bill would require each school district or county office of education to provide information regarding the child’s eligibility for the School Lunch Program to the local agency that determines CalFresh program eligibility for purposes of implementing the categorical eligibility.

**Location:** Assembly Floor; Third reading

## Proposed Federal Legislation – 2019-2020

1. [**HR 1368**](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1368/) ([**Adams**](https://www.congress.gov/member/alma-adams/A000370)) *Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2019*

@ould increase benefits for all SNAP participants by basing benefits on the Low Cost Meal Plan instead of the Thrifty Food Plan, increase SNAP benefits for families with children with high shelter costs by removing the cap on the SNAP shelter deduction, raise the SNAP monthly minimum benefit to $25, and authorize a SNAP Standard Excess Medical Deduction for persons who are elderly or have disabilities (with a minimum standard of $140).

**Location:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations.

## Passed Legislation List and Related Current Laws

1. **Signed!** (09/2018) **–** [**AB 1894**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1894) **(Weber)** require an approved on-campus qualifying food facility that participates in the RMP pursuant or the bill to meet all of the requirements to participation in that program. Thus bill states that a qualifying food facility administered by the postsecondary educational institution. *This bill would authorize any qualifying food facility located on a campus of the California State University to participate in the CalFresh RMP even if the facility is located in a county that does not participate in the RMP.*
2. **Signed!** (09/2017) **-** [**AB 563**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB563) **(Arambula)** creates the *Center for CalFresh Employment and Training Excellence*. It would also establish that someone subject to the Abled Bodied Adult without Dependents (ABAWD) 3-month time limit and related work requirement cannot also be required to work in a mandatory CalFresh Employment and Training Program as a condition of eligibility. Finally, it clarifies that the State Department of Social Services may prioritize use of federal CalFresh E&T funding for certain programs and clarify that it may contract directly with an E&T Provider. Signed by the Governor, Chapter 343, and Statutes of 2017.

*CA ABAWD’s exemption expires August 31, 2018.*

1. **Signed!** (09/2017) - [**SB 282**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB282) **(Wiener)** *codifies the CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program (RMP) for elderly, disabled or homeless recipients* in state law. It would also require the Department of Social Services to seek approval for a CalFresh Employment & Training subsidized job program. Finally, it would allow for counties to serve parents of CalWORKs aided children even if they are not residing with the child. Cosponsored by Western Center on Law and Poverty, the County Welfare Department Association and the Coalition of Welfare Rights Organizations. Signed by the Governor, Chapter 355, Statutes of 2017.
2. **Signed!** (07/2017) - [**SB 85**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB85)The Trustees of the California State University shall, and the Regents of University of California are encouraged to, designate as a "hunger free campus' each should have: *a campus employee designated to provide CalFresh information; Food Pantry, and a meal sharing program*. Community college districts that chooses to participate as a "hunger free campus" should have: a campus employee providing CalFresh Information and a Food pantry.
3. **Signed!** (07/2017) **-** [**AB 214**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB214) **(Weber)** addresses college student hunger by *defining terms* used in the CalFresh program to determine eligibility and clarifying law concerning CalFresh Restaurant Meal Program on College Campuses. Co-Sponsored by Western Center, Young Invincibles, the Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations, CSU Student Association, the UC Student Association and the Student Senate for California Community College. Signed by the Governor, Chapter 134, Statutes of 2017.

(The bill would also require the Student Aid Commission to provide written notice to recipients of Cal Grant awards who qualify for participation in the CalFresh program under the federal regulation. This bill also provides guidance on becoming a RMP site.)

1. **Signed!** (06/2017) **-** [**CalFresh and Vegetable EBT Pilot**](https://cfpa.net/invest-to-double-the-fresh-in-calfresh/)SB 845, the Human Services Omnibus Budget Bill, includes the statutory language from [SB 900 (Wiener)](https://cfpa.net/sb900/) and includes full funding for pilot implementation, which includes EBT programming upgrades to support financial incentives for CalFresh fruit and vegetables, grants for local entities to pilot the project, and funding for the fruit and vegetables purchase match. Since the budget includes the policy and funding goals from SB 900, which the legislation is no longer needed to move forward. The CalFresh Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot will provide CalFresh shoppers in selected pilot locations with a dollar-for-dollar match to purchase California-grown fresh fruits and vegetables. The implementation of this pilot project will be funded for three years.
2. **Signed!** (05/2017) **-** [**AB 453**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB453) **(Limón)** is a spot bill that will be amended to address college student hunger. This bill is co-sponsored by Western Center, SWIPE to End Hunger, and Young Invincibles. Location: Funding for Hunger Free Campuses was included in the Budget Act of 2017-18. List of components needed to be a”hunger free campus” and receive state funding. Including: (1) A campus employee designated to help*ensure that* students*have the information that they need to* enroll in CalFresh.
3. **Signed!** (09/2016) - [**AB 1747**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1747) **(Weber)** each public and private postsecondary educational institution that is located in a county that participates in the *Restaurant Meals Program* to apply to become an approved food vendor for the program, if the institution operates any qualifying food facilities on campus, or to provide contracting food vendors with specified information about the program. By imposing these requirements on community colleges, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. This bill would establish the Public Higher Education Pantry Assistance Program Account in the Emergency Food Assistance Program Fund, and would require that moneys in the account, upon appropriation by the Legislature, be allocated to the department for allocation to food banks that support on-campus pantry and hunger relief efforts serving low-income students, as specified.
4. **Signed!** (09/2014) - [**AB 1930**](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB1930) **(Skinner)** for the purposes of determining eligibility, certain educational programs, as determined by the State Department of Social Services, should be considered *employment training programs*, thereby qualifying a student participating in one of those programs for an exemption, unless prohibited by federal law. The bill would also require the State Department of Social Services, in consultation with representatives from other specified organizations, to establish a protocol to identify and verify all potential exemptions and to identify and verify participation in educational programs, including self-initiated placements that would qualify a student for an exemption.