

Application Assistance & Direct Client Services

The application process in three easy steps:
Application, Interview, Verifications

Application

Students can complete the application in person through your CalFresh Outreach Office, at a county office, online or by phone.

As the assister, it is important to [prescreen](#) the student to check if they are meeting basic and student eligibility requirements before applying for CalFresh. Ultimately, the county will determine if the student qualifies for CalFresh.

If the student is applying online:

- You, as the assister, can use [GetCalFresh.org](#) and [BenefitsCal.com](#) to complete the online application with the student
- They can apply on their own after creating a BenefitsCal account
- More information about [how to assist students in creating their BenefitsCal account](#)

Interview

After the student submits their application, a CalFresh caseworker will call the student to confirm the details of their application.

The call may come from a blocked number or may be marked as potential spam. Regardless, the student must complete their phone interview.

Verifications

Students must submit documentation or verifications within 30 days. Submitting verifications will allow the county to analyze the student's situation, and determine whether they qualify for CalFresh. Some common verifications that counties request from students are, but not limited to:

- **Photo ID:** state ID, student ID, driver's license
- **Income:** pay stubs or statement from employer
- **Citizenship status:** social security card; for non-citizens, lawful permanent resident (LPR) card or an I-94
- **Student status:** financial aid letter or class schedule

Once the student has gathered their documents, they may submit their documents online through their BenefitsCal account.

As the assister, you can guide the student through their BenefitsCal account to access case information, upload documents/verifications, and keep track of important dates and reporting reminders.



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