



# NON-CITIZEN ELIGIBILITY CHANGES



Beginning **April 1, 2026**, CalFresh eligibility will change for some lawfully present non-citizens.



**Turn over  
for more info!**



## Questions? We can help!

A county worker can help review your unique situation and answer questions about your CalFresh benefit eligibility.



1-888-421-8080



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# **Non-Citizen Eligibility Changes** **What You Need to Know**

Beginning **April 1, 2026**, CalFresh rules are changing for some non-citizens. This Q&A answers common questions about these eligibility changes.

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## **What is changing?**

Due to federal law changes, some non-citizens will no longer be eligible for CalFresh benefits.

## **Who will still qualify for CalFresh?**

CalFresh will still be available to people who are:

- U.S. Citizens
- Lawful Permanent Residents (permanent resident card holders)
- Cuban or Haitian Entrants
- People from certain Pacific Island nations under a Compact of Free Association (COFA)
- Non-citizen U.S. Nationals

## **Who may no longer qualify for CalFresh?**

Some groups of lawfully present non-citizens who previously qualified may no longer be eligible under the new federal law. The list includes:

- Asylees
- Refugees
- Parolees (unless classified as a Cuban/ Haitian Entrant)
- Individuals granted withholding of deportation or removal
- Conditional Entrants
- Survivors of trafficking
- Battered noncitizens
- Iraqis and Afghans with Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs)
- Certain Afghan nationals granted parole between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023
- Certain Ukrainian nationals granted parole between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024

## **If you're getting CalFresh and no longer qualify, what happens next?**

You do not need to act right now. Your eligibility will be reviewed at your next renewal. The County will notify you of any changes.


## **What about mixed-status households?**

CalFresh eligibility is based on each individual person, not the entire household. If some people in your home qualify, they can still receive benefits even if others do not.

For example, children or other family members who qualify can still receive CalFresh benefits even if someone else in the household does not.

## **Have questions? We are here to help.**

 Call: 1-888-421-8080

 Visit: 1020 Emeline Ave., Santa Cruz or 500 Westridge Dr., Watsonville

 Online: [www.santacruzhumanservices.org](http://www.santacruzhumanservices.org)

