

# L.A. County Benefits Basics

## CalFresh (CF)

### What It Is

- Money to help indigent individuals or families pay for food.

### What Is Required

- Must be U.S. Citizen/Legal Resident or other documented immigrant (e.g. a refugee).
- Must be low income. Income eligibility depends on family size (must have <\$1915 gross monthly income for a household of one). Income limits increase with each additional family member.
- The worker will ask for proof of identity, residence, income, and resources, but a person cannot be denied for not having all of these documents.
- Individuals convicted of certain drug felonies after August 22, 1996 are not eligible for CalFresh. Parole or probation violators and fleeing felons are not eligible for CalFresh.

### What Is **NOT** Required

- County residence is not required - if you received CF in another county, you can just request a transfer.
- As of Feb. 1, 2011, household assets and resources are not considered for eligibility determination.
- As of January 1, 2012, fingerprinting is no longer required for CalFresh-only applicants.

### What You Get

- Amount of monthly benefits received depends on family size and income (e.g. \$189 for one person).
- If eligible, CalFresh participants receive an EBT card that can be used at grocery stores to buy food (not including hot-prepared foods) and non-alcoholic beverages only.
- Homeless, elderly, disabled applicants or those who do not have a place to prepare meals, can request the Restaurant Meals Program, which allows for the purchase of hot meals at participating restaurants.
- Expedited (same-day) CalFresh is available for homeless applicants. Applicants only need to sign and a statement certifying they are homeless - no other proof is required.

## General Relief (GR)

### What It Is

- Cash aid for indigent single individuals who have almost no money/resources.

### What Is Required

- Must be U.S. Citizen/Legal Resident, have resided in LA County for 15+ days and intend to remain here.
- Must prove identity - Birth certificate or photo ID is acceptable. DPSS can verify the SSN or apply for the original birth certificate if necessary. You can also prove your identity with a "collateral contact" - someone who knows you and can certify who you are.
- Cannot have more than \$50 in cash or bank account and few other resources at time of application.
- Must participate in Welfare-to-Work requirements, also known as GROW.
- You will be fingerprinted and photographed the same day you apply.
- If chemically dependent, applicants must first enroll in a treatment program. Parole or probation violators and fleeing felons are not eligible for GR.

### What You Get

- Benefit is \$221/month per adult. County has up to 30 calendar days to approve the case and issue benefits. Benefits are deposited on an EBT card that can be used at banks, ATM machines and stores.
- Eligible to receive GR for nine months of the year if applicant is "employable." If found to be "unemployable" or disabled, then s/he can continue to receive GR benefits for the full year.
- Emergency benefits are available for first-time homeless applicants, including bus tokens, up to two weeks of hotel vouchers at contracted Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels, and meal vouchers.

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If you have questions about your benefits, please consult an attorney.*

## CalWORKs

### What It Is

- Cash aid for low income families, who have children under 19 years old.

### What Is Required

- At least the qualifying children must be U.S. Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents.
- Aid given when one or both parents are absent from the home, deceased or disabled or in two-parent households, the principal wage earner is either unemployed or working less than 100 hours per month.
- Must be low income. Income eligibility depends on family size (must have <\$576 gross monthly income for a household of one). Income limits increase with each additional family member.
- To be qualified your resources must be less than \$2,000. Cash on hand, savings, some cars, and most other property count as resources.
- Must participate in Welfare-to-Work requirements, also known as GAIN. Certain people (e.g. if you're caring for children or disabled family members or if you are a teen parent who is going to school) can get an exemption from GAIN activities.
- All adults (18 and over) and teen parents must be fingerprinted.
- Individuals convicted of certain drug felonies after December 31, 1997 are not eligible for CalWORKs.
- Most adults can get CalWORKs for only 48 months in their lifetime. Exceptions exist for domestic violence victims.

### What You Get

- Amount of monthly benefits received depends on family size and income.
- If eligible, CalWORKs participants will receive an EBT card that can be used at banks, ATM machines and stores.
- Homeless participants or those in danger of being homeless, can get various additional funds to help with securing new or keeping current housing.

**Special Note:** If you have a child while your family is getting CalWORKs, you will not get more cash aid for children born, unless you weren't getting cash aid for two consecutive months in the ten months previous to the birth or if the child was born as result of failed contraception.

## WIC

### What It Is

- Special food vouchers for children under 5 years of age and women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or just had a baby, to help ensure healthy nutrition.

### What Is Required

- At least the qualifying children must be U.S. Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents.
- Must be low income. Income eligibility depends on family size (must have <\$1,772 gross monthly income for a household of one). Income limits increase with each additional family member.

### What You Get

- Special food vouchers to buy healthy foods, such as low-fat milk, fruits, vegetables, cheese, juice, eggs, etc. Vouchers can be used in participating stores and some even at farmers' markets.
- Extra food for women who are breastfeeding or checks for formula and cereal for babies.
- Information about nutrition and health to help your family eat healthy and stay healthy.

**Note:** WIC benefits are available at special offices, not the regular County Welfare (DPSS) offices. Call **(888) 942-9675** or visit [www.fns.usda.gov/wic](http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic) to find out your closest WIC office. Drug Screening Requirements

*(see next page for office listings)*

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## DPSS Office Locations

Apply for public benefits online at <https://www.dpssbenefits.lacounty.gov/ybn/Index.html>

or in person at one of the district offices:

CF = CalFresh; CW = CalWORKs;  
GR = General Relief

**Belvedere (05) (CF, CW)**

5445 Whittier Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90022  
(323) 727-4542

**Civic Center (14)\* (CF, GR)**

813 E. Fourth Place  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

**Compton (26)\* (CF, CW)**

211 E. Alondra Blvd.  
Compton, CA 90220

**Cudahy (06) (CF, CW)**

8130 S. Atlantic Ave.  
Cudahy, CA 90201  
(323) 560-5192

**East Valley (11)\* (CF, CW)**

14545 Lanark St.  
Panorama City, CA 91402

**El Monte (04)\* (CF, CW)**

3350 Aerojet Ave.  
El Monte, CA 91731

**Exposition Park (12)\* (CF, CW)**

3833 S. Vermont Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90037

**Florence (17)\* (CF, GR, CW)**

1740 E. Gage Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90001

**Glendale (02) (CF, CW, GR)**

4680 San Fernando Rd.  
Glendale, CA 91204  
(818) 546-6100 or (818) 546-6200

**Lancaster (34)\* (CF, CW)**

349-B East Ave. K-6  
Lancaster, CA 93535

**Lancaster General (67)\* (CF, GR)**

337 East Ave K-10  
Lancaster, CA 93535

**Metro East (15) (CF, CW, GR)**

2855 E. Olympic Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90023  
(323) 260-3718

**Metro Family (13)\* (CF, CW)**

2615 S. Grand Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

**Metro North (38)\* (CF, CW)**

2601 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90057

**Metro Special (70)\* (CF, GR)**

2707 S. Grand Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

**Norwalk (40)\* (CF, CW)**

12727 Norwalk Blvd.  
Norwalk, CA 90650

**Santa Clarita (51)\* (CF, CW)  
(Norwalk Sub-Office)**

27233 Camp Plenty Rd.  
Canyon Country, CA 91351

**Paramount (62) (CF, CW)**

2961 E. Victoria St.  
Rancho Dominguez, CA 90221  
(310) 603-5251

**Lincoln Heights (66) (CF, CW)  
(Paramount Sub-Office)**

4077 N. Mission Rd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90032  
(323) 342-8180

**Pasadena (03)\* (CF, CW, GR)**

955 N. Lake Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91104

**Pomona (36)\* (CF, CW, GR)**

2040 W. Holt Ave.  
Pomona, CA 91768

**Rancho Park (60)\* (CF, CW, GR)**

11110 W. Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90064

**San Fernando (32)\* (CF, GR)**

9188 Glenoaks Blvd.  
Sun Valley, CA 91342

**San Gabriel (20)\* (CF, CW, GR)**

3352 Aerojet Ave.  
El Monte, CA 91731

**South Central (27) (CF, CW, GR)**

10728 S. Central Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90059  
(323) 563-4401

**South Family (31)\* (CF, CW)**

17600 A Santa Fe Ave.  
Rancho Dominguez, CA 90221

**South Special (07)\* (CF, GR)**

17600 B Santa Fe Ave.  
Rancho Dominguez, CA 90221

**Southwest Family (83)\* (CF, CW)**

8300 S. Vermont Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90044

**Southwest Special (08)\* (CF, GR)**

1819 W. 120th St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90047

**West Valley (82)\* (CF, CW)**

21415-21615 Plummer St.  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

**Wilshire (10)\* (CF, GR)**

2415 6th St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90057

\* - these offices only receive calls through the Customer Service Center (CSC). You can reach the CSC at (866) 613-3777. You will need a 10-digit Customer ID Number and a 6-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) to get case specific information. If you do not have those numbers, you can request them when speaking with a Customer Service Representative.



Learn more at [publiccounsel.org](http://publiccounsel.org)

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