CalFresh SSI Expansion
Summer of 2019

CalFresh SSI Expansion Time Line - 2019

March

- State & Counties preparing for implementation
- SLO County talking with community partners about outreach efforts

April

- State to release promotional materials to counties
- SLO County preparing training materials and policies.

May

- Media & Outreach efforts begin
- SLO DSS Staff training
- **5/31/19 Last Day that SSI Recipients are excluded from CalFresh eligibility!**

June

- **6/1/19 1st day that SSI Recipients may be eligible to CalFresh benefits!**
- SSI recipients applying for CalFresh

Background

- Since the 1970s, SSI recipients have received what is called the “SSI Cash-Out”. The SSI Cash-Qut has caused them to be ineligible for the CalFresh Program (Food Stamps). This ends May 31, 2019 thanks to a change in the law.
- Beginning June 1, 2019, SSI recipients become potentially eligible to CalFresh (Food Assistance).
- The SSI benefits will NOT be reduced because of this change.
- Most SSI/SSP recipients will need to apply for CalFresh.
  - The *exception* is SSI recipients who live in a household and share food with people who are currently receiving CalFresh benefits.

This Change Benefits the Majority of SSI Recipients, But Not All.

- The majority of California's SSI Recipients will benefit by this change because they will get the same amount of SSI benefits ***and*** receive CalFresh benefits to help with food costs!
- In some shared living situations, would have been negatively impacted once the SSI recipient's income is added to the CalFresh Household. To prevent this from happening, 2 New Programs were created.

2 New CalFresh Programs to Help

1. **Supplemental Nutrition Benefit "SNB"**- If the household's CF benefits are lowered at the time the excluded SSI/SSP individual/s is added. HH remains CF eligible. SNB supplements CF benefits
2. **Transitional Nutrition Benefit "TNB"** – If adding the previously excluded SSI person/s causes the CF Household to *lose* CF eligibility. TNB continues CF eligibility with state funds.

2 Different Types of Implementation

1. New Applications - June 1st is the 1st Date that SSI recipients can be potentially eligible for CalFresh.
   - SSI only households
   - Households not currently receiving CalFresh
2. Rolling Implementation (6/1/19 is the 1st possible date) – For Existing (Ongoing) CalFresh Households that have an excluded SSI/SSP person in the HH as of 6/1/19.
   - The Rolling Implementation begins at the time of the next Periodic Report (SAR) or annual recertification (RRR) or at the time of a voluntary request from the participant (*not necessarily a wise choice*).

When the SSI recipient lives alone or when *everyone* in the household is receives SSI…

Beginning June 1st, apply for CalFresh!

CalFresh FOOD

When someone on SSI lives with others

- SSI recipients who are an “excluded household member” on a CalFresh or CalWORKs case, do not need to apply for CalFresh.
- Refer the SSI recipient or the family to the DSS worker(ERS) for information. They will be done at the time that the household’s next report (Semi-Annual Report or Annual Recertification) is due.

How You Can Help!

- Share the news!
- Help SSI recipients apply for CalFresh
  - Help complete forms
  - Help them apply on-line
  - Support them gathering any necessary verifications

Applying for CalFresh in SLO County

- Apply on-line using a smart phone or a computer.

  The Quick, Easy & Convenient way to apply!

  - At www.getcalfresh.org if applying for CalFresh only, or
  - At www.mybenefitscalwin.org if apply for CalFresh & another program (like Medi-Cal or CalWORKs).
- Apply in-person at a local Department of Social Services office.
- Complete paper application form to apply by mail.
- *Have questions? Need more information? C*all 1-800-831-3002.

Questions?