

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Most Alameda County CalFresh Recipients to Receive February Benefits as soon as January 15, 2019

- WHO:** Most current recipients and known to be eligible applicants of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program also known locally as CalFresh.
- WHAT:** Because of the federal government shutdown, February CalFresh food benefits will be provided earlier than usual to most current recipients—between January 15-20, 2019 instead of between February 1-10, 2019. On January 8, 2019 the USDA issued a letter directing States to implement an “early issuance” strategy to make February benefits available to CalFresh recipients no later than January 20, 2019.
- The Alameda County Social Services Agency will advise CalFresh recipients that early receipt of February benefits will require planning and judicious spending to ensure that their food budget will carry them through the entire month of February. CalFresh recipients will not receive any additional food benefits in the month of February.
- “We know how stressful this has been for our clients, and I want to assure them that the Alameda County Social Services Agency will keep them informed as we learn more about the impact to services resulting from the shutdown,” commented Lori A. Cox, Director of the Alameda County Social Services Agency.
- WHEN:** On January 15-20, 2019 CalFresh benefits for the month of February 2019 will be loaded onto the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards of current recipients and known to be eligible applicants of CalFresh in Alameda County.
- WHERE:** If CalFresh recipients or new applicants have questions regarding their February benefits, they can call our Customer Service Call Center at: 510-263-2420 or 1-888-999-4772. More information is also available [on our website:](http://www.alamedasocialservices.org/public/index.cfm)
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