



MEMORANDUM

November 6, 2025

ESS 25-76 | Via Email

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Chief Student Services Officers
Chief Business Officers
Financial Aid Directors
Basic Need Service Directors

FROM: Stacey Shears, Vice Chancellor for Student Services

RE: Federal Government Shutdown - Emergency Aid CalFresh Support

Dear Colleagues,

The ongoing federal government shutdown may impact individuals' receipt of CalFresh benefits, federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), for November and possibly longer until funding is restored.

The Chancellor's Office is actively collaborating with state and federal partners to advocate for the continued provision of CalFresh/SNAP resources and remains committed to ensuring that all students and staff have access to the help they need.

The Chancellor's Office recognizes and thanks the many campuses that are already coordinating with local partners, county social services, and food banks to make sure students continue receiving assistance. Your leadership and rapid actions are making a tangible difference for students and their families. We especially appreciate those who have shared examples of your local efforts with us. This kind of collaboration helps strengthen our systemwide response and ensures we can continue learning from one another.

This memo provides resources and recommendations for colleges to support students who may experience delays in receiving benefits. Measures listed below may be helpful for students experiencing disruption of their CalFresh benefits:

- Assist students completing the FAFSA/CADAA to ensure access to federal and state financial aid programs, such as Pell Grants and Cal Grants. Federal financial aid programs are not impacted by the federal government shutdown.
- Assist students enrolling in other public benefit programs such as Medi-Cal and CalWORKs through [BenefitsCal.com](https://www.benefitscal.com). These programs are not impacted by the federal government shutdown. Students can also still enroll in CalFresh and will be eligible for retroactive payments once federal funding resumes.
- Leverage other state categorical funds to provide direct aid to students with unmet need and emergency aid for those experiencing unexpected financial hardship. This memo

summarizes current programs that may offer such support to students who will temporarily lose access to their CalFresh benefits. The following is a list of potential funding sources:

- [Basic Need Center and Coordinator Support Program](#)
- [Basic Needs Services \(one-time\) Fund Program](#)
- [California Promise Program](#)
- [California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids \(CalWORKs\)](#)
- [Dreamer Resource Liaison Support Program](#)
- [Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#)
- [Homeless and Housing Insecurity Program](#)
- [LGBTQ+](#)
- [Lottery Funds](#)
- [Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement \(MESA\)](#)
- [NextUp](#)
- [Rising Scholars](#)
- [Student Equity & Achievement \(SEA\) Program](#)
- [Veteran Resource Center](#)
- 2025-26 One-Time Funds: Scheduled allocation - 2025-26 First Principal Apportionment
 - Emergency Aid for CADAA Filers: Available in P1
 - Student Success Block Grant: Available in P1
 - Dream Resource Center Emergency Funds: Available in P1

Colleges are encouraged to maximize available state and local funds for direct aid to students who have unmet need exists. Individual colleges may not have access to all the funding sources referenced in this memo. Further details about each of the above funding sources are included in this memo (linked below). Use of funds should follow Education Code, Title 5 regulations, and/or guidance related to each program.

In addition to leveraging campus funds, colleges are also encouraged to coordinate with local partners, including [county social services offices](#), [county-based food banks](#), and other nonprofit organizations. Across California, city governments, businesses, and philanthropic organizations have begun coordinating to support individuals who will potentially be impacted by the lapse in CalFresh benefits. Colleges may have established relationships with organizations that support food security services. Linked below are a list of organizations that colleges may want to consider partnering with including:

- [Feeding America](#)
- [Meals on Wheels](#)
- [World Food Programme](#)

- [Food Recovery Network](#)

The most up-to-date information regarding the status of CalFresh benefits is available on the [California Department of Social Services website](#). Additional communications may also be disseminated through local county agencies that oversee the distribution of CalFresh benefits.

Categorically Funded Programs to Support Direct Aid to Students:

Basic Needs Center and Coordinator Support Program

College may use Basic Needs Center and Coordinator Support program funds to support the Vision for Success goals, including providing direct aid to students such as cash grants, gas cards, or grocery cards. Colleges have the flexibility to establish local eligibility criteria based on student needs and their risk of not persisting in their educational programs.

Basic Needs Services (one-time) Fund Program

Colleges may use Basic Needs Services (one-time) program funds to advance the Vision for Success goals, including providing direct assistance to students through cash grants, gas cards, or grocery cards. Colleges have the flexibility to establish local eligibility criteria based on student needs and their risk of not persisting in their educational programs.

California Promise Program (AB 19/AB 2)

Colleges may use California Promise Program funds to waive student tuition fees or to support the Vision for Success goals, including providing direct aid to students such as cash grants, gas cards, or grocery cards. Eligibility is based on full-time enrollment and completion of either the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application.

California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)

CalWORKs programs may use Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to provide direct grants to participating students. Colleges should coordinate with their financial aid offices to ensure grants do not exceed a student's total cost of attendance. CalWORKs eligibility is based on the student being a current CalWORKs recipient who has not met their initial educational objective or exceeded their time limit.

Dreamer Resource Liaison Support Program

Colleges may use Dreamer Resource Liaison Support program funds to support the Vision for Success goals, including providing direct aid to students such as cash grants, gas cards, or grocery cards.

Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS)

Per [Title V regulation 56254](#), EOPS funds can be used to provide direct aid grants to students.

LGBTQ+

Colleges may use LGBTQ+ program funds to support the Vision for Success goals, including providing direct aid to students such as cash grants, gas cards, or grocery cards.

Lottery Funds

Per [Assembly Bill 2884, Chapter 294](#), Colleges may use lottery funds to support housing assistance and food assistance services for students. Additional information regarding Lottery Funds can be found on the [Chancellor's Office Lottery webpage](#).

Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA)

Assembly Bill 74 (2019–20 Budget Act) provides funding to eligible districts through MESA program grants. These programs serve economically and educationally disadvantaged students in STEM fields. Colleges may consult with their districts to determine if available funds can be used for direct aid to students affected by the shutdown.

NextUp

Participating colleges may use NextUp funds to provide grants or loans to foster youth students enrolled in the program. Colleges should work with financial aid offices to ensure NextUp students receive the maximum aid available. Eligibility is based on enrollment, age, and foster youth status.

Rising Scholars

Funding authorized under [Assembly Bill 1809](#) supports currently and formerly incarcerated students. Rising Scholars programs may provide direct aid to eligible students enrolled in the program. Eligibility is based on current term enrollment.

Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Program

SEA program funds may be used to provide direct aid to students experiencing an unforeseen financial hardship due to the federal government shutdown. Colleges may define eligibility criteria locally, based on student need, satisfactory academic progress, and risk of not persisting in their course of study.

Veterans Resource Center (VRC) Program

Colleges may use Veterans Resource Center program funds support the Vision for Success goals, including providing direct aid to students such as cash grants, gas cards, or grocery cards.

It is critical during this period that our system remains focused on addressing inequities and supporting students most affected by the loss or delay of federal supports. Colleges are encouraged to use available resources creatively and equitably to ensure students can continue their education uninterrupted. Additional, program specific information, including Chancellor's Office staff contact information can be found in the [2025-2026 California Community Colleges Compendium of Allocations and Resources](#).

Chancellor's Office Contact

For questions regarding this memo or the funding sources, please contact Dean of Educational Services and Support, Allison Beer at ABeer@CCCCO.edu

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