

Press Contact:

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Thousands of Santa Cruz Residents Missing Out on CalFresh Benefits

New guidelines expand CalFresh eligibility

Santa Cruz County, CA — CalFresh is a nutrition assistance program that provides access to healthy foods for families, children and individuals in households earning less than 200% of the federal poverty level before taxes (about \$4,184 per month for a family of four). However, almost 100,000 people in Santa Cruz County qualify to receive CalFresh benefits, but have not applied.

CalFresh benefits are especially crucial to seniors on fixed incomes. It allows them stretch their food budgets to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats and beans, whole grains, and more. As of June 1, 2019, seniors and people with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) / State Supplementary Payment (SSP) became eligible to receive CalFresh benefits. The CalFresh benefit varies depending on individual circumstances like household size, income, and expenses. Annual CalFresh benefits may range from \$180 to over \$1,200. SSI/SSP benefits will NOT be reduced as a result of receiving this benefit.

To find out more and apply, go to getcalfresh.org or call 1-877-847-3663. In addition, there are local organizations that provide one-on-one assistance to answer questions and help people enroll in the program. Organizations providing assistance, their locations, available hours and contact information are below.

WHERE	WHEN	CONTACT
COMMUNITY BRIDGES: Meals on Wheels 1777 A Capitola Road, Santa Cruz	Monday–Friday By Appointment Only	831-464-3180 X100
COMMUNITY BRIDGES: La Manzana Community Resources 521 Main Street, Suite Y, Watsonville	Monday–Friday 9am to 4:30pm (closed for lunch 12pm to 1pm)	831-724-2997
COMMUNITY BRIDGES: Live Oak Community Resources 1740 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz	Monday–Thursday 9am to 5pm (closed for lunch 12pm to 1pm) Friday 9am to 12pm	831-476-7284

COMMUNITY BRIDGES: Mountain Community Resources 6134 Highway 9, Felton	Monday–Thursday 9am to 4pm (closed for lunch 12:30pm to 1pm)	831-335-6600
COMMUNITY BRIDGES: Nueva Vista Community Resources 711 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz	Monday–Friday 9am to 5:30 pm (closed for lunch 1pm to 2pm)	831-423-5747
Santa Cruz County Human Services Department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1020 Emeline Avenue, Building B Santa Cruz • 18 W. Beach Street Watsonville 	Monday–Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm	1-888-421-8080
Seniors Council / Area Agency on Aging 234 Santa Cruz Avenue, Aptos	Tuesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louden Nelson: 10:30am to 12:00pm • Live Oak Senior Center: 1:00pm to 2:30pm • Mid County Senior Center: 3:00pm to 4:00pm Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watsonville Senior Center: 10:00am to 12:00 pm Additional times available by appointment	831-688-0400
Central Coast Center for Independent Living 1350 41st Avenue, Suite 10, Capitola	Monday–Friday By Appointment Only	831-757-2968

ABOUT COMMUNITY BRIDGES

Community Bridges envisions a thriving community where every person has the opportunity to unleash their full potential. Together, our family of programs delivers essential services, provides equitable access to resources, and advocates for health and dignity across every stage of life. To learn more, please visit www.communitybridges.org.

The Community Bridges family of programs includes the Child & Adult Care Food Program, Child Development Division, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), La Manzana Community Resources, Live Oak Community Resources, Mountain Community Resources, Nueva Vista Community Resources, Elderday Adult Day Health Care, Lift Line and Meals on Wheels for Santa Cruz County.

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