

Lake County Social Services CalFresh & Medi-Cal Program Update

[Social Services | Lake County, CA \(lakecountyca.gov\)](https://www.lakecountyca.gov/social-services)

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COVID-19 Waivers Ending

- With approval of the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act, some public assistance program waivers tied to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) are ending.
 - ✓ CalFresh Emergency Allotments
 - ✓ Medi-Cal Continuous Coverage

CalFresh Emergency Allotments Ending

- CalFresh Emergency Allotments are temporary increases to regular CalFresh benefit amounts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress authorized Emergency Allotments to help meet food needs. This means that since March 2020, households received an increase of at least \$95 in CalFresh benefits per month.
- In December 2022, \$4,548,261 in CalFresh benefits were issued to 15,824 individuals in Lake County. \$1,697,961 of these benefits were Emergency Allotments (37.33%).
- The final Emergency Allotment will be issued in March 2023.

CalFresh Emergency Allotments Ending

- What happens next if you get CalFresh?
 - You will get less CalFresh. Beginning April 2023, your CalFresh benefits will return to the regular amount. Your regular amount is the amount put onto your EBT card between the 1st and 10th of each month. Your regular benefits are based on your circumstances, including your household size, income, and deductions.
 - This is a mass change that affects all CalFresh households in California due to Federal regulations and is not considered a reduction to the approved regular CalFresh benefit amount. A state hearing judge cannot order payment of Emergency Allotments after they have stopped.
 - You can get free food from your local food bank. Visit www.cafoodbanks.org/find-food/, dial 2-1-1 to find a food bank in your area, or visit www.facebook.com/LakeCountySocialServices for our current local Food Distribution and Food Pantry List.
- Questions? Call 1-888-445-1955 or visit www.cdss.ca.gov/calfreshcovid19

Medi-Cal Continuous Coverage Ending

- Continuous coverage ensured, with few exceptions, that people on Medi-Cal kept their Medi-Cal without any changes throughout the PHE. Our goal as this waiver unwinds is to keep as many people as are eligible continuously enrolled in Medi-Cal, and to assist those who are no longer eligible for Medi-Cal in transitioning to a Covered California health plan if they wish to do so.
- As of 12/2022, 18,073 cases, 31,827 individuals are Medi-Cal aided in Lake County.
- We will have 12 months starting in June 2023 to process Medi-Cal recertifications for all cases, with approximately 1/12 recertifications due monthly. Recertification packets will start mailing to beneficiaries in April 2023. Recertification processing will begin in June 2023. The first month of potential benefit discontinuance will be July 2023.
- **Right now, beneficiaries should make sure that we have their correct mailing address.** They can do so by calling us at (707) 995-4200, online at www.benefitscal.com, or in-person at 15975 Anderson Ranch Parkway, Lower Lake, CA 95457.

Medi-Cal Continuous Coverage Ending

- **Beneficiaries should wait until they receive correspondence from us asking them to renew.** Those packets will be mailed between April 2023 and March 2024, due back between June 2023 and May 2024. Over the next year, we cannot take any negative action until a family comes due for their renewal, it's to the family's benefit to wait for their due date to contact us to renew. Beneficiaries will receive a notice of action in the mail when their benefits are renewed, changed, or discontinued.
- This is going to be a significant workload challenge for Eligibility Staff. This workload will be an “all hands on deck” effort, much like the Affordable Care Act (ACA) transition. In March 2023 we plan to form a Counter Service and Outreach unit who will assist in managing lobby traffic for applicants and current beneficiaries who need assistance with Medi-Cal forms and printed resources.
- We look forward to working in partnership with DHCS as we meet these significant challenges in the coming year. It is our goal to ensure individuals in Lake County are aware the Medi-Cal program is available, and for those that qualify, easily obtained.

Questions?

Lake County Social Services – Eligibility

Monday-Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Call: (707) 995-4200

Click: www.benefitscal.com (to apply or manage your case)

Come-In: 15975 Anderson Ranch Parkway, Lower Lake, CA 95457

Fax: (707) 995-4204

Mail: P.O. Box 9000, Lower Lake, CA 95457