

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING

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PROGRAM MEMO

CDA 1014 (Rev. 04/11)

TO: Area Agency on Aging Directors, Title IIIC Elderly Nutrition Program Managers, and Registered Dietitians.	NO.: PM 14-01(P)
SUBJECT: Nutrition Golden Advantage Nutrition Program: Using CalFresh Benefits in the Older Americans Act, Title IIIC Elderly Nutrition Program	DATE ISSUED: January 16, 2014
REVISED:	EXPIRES: When superseded
REFERENCES: Federal Register in the Code of Federal Regulations, 7 C.F.R., Parts 271 through 283. CalFresh Manual of Policy and Procedures.	SUPERSEDES:
PROGRAMS AFFECTED: <input type="checkbox"/> All <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title III-C1/C2 <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-D <input type="checkbox"/> Title III-E <input type="checkbox"/> Title V <input type="checkbox"/> CBSP <input type="checkbox"/> MSSP <input type="checkbox"/> Title VII <input type="checkbox"/> CBAS <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

Purpose

The purpose of this Program Memo (PM) is to inform Older Americans Act (OAA), Title IIIC Elderly Nutrition Programs (ENP) that it is permissible to receive CalFresh benefits from eligible participants as a voluntary contribution toward their ENP meals as part of the Golden Advantage Nutrition Program (GANP) pilot project. To support the GANP pilot project implementation, this PM provides ENPs with information about:

- GANP
- Becoming an authorized CalFresh Communal Dining Facility and/or a Meal Delivery Service
- Requisites for ENPs to accept CalFresh benefits

Background

When compared to other age groups, older adults have a very low participation rate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as CalFresh in California. Nationally, 34 percent of eligible older adults participate in SNAP, whereas only 10 percent of eligible California seniors participate in CalFresh. To address this disparity, the California Department of Aging (CDA) and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) have collaborated to implement the GANP pilot project.

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**GANP
description**

GANP allows CalFresh participants aged 60 and older to use their CalFresh benefits towards meal contributions at eligible Title IIIC congregate meal sites (CalFresh Communal Dining Facilities) and/or for eligible Title IIIC home-delivered meal programs (Meal Delivery Service). Participants may use either Electronic Benefit Transfer Card (EBT) or paper vouchers to contribute towards the ENP.

GANP can help support ENPs by generating program income through voluntary contributions and allows participants another method to contribute towards the meal. In addition, CalFresh can help support participants' food security by providing additional resources to help offset food costs or to purchase food on days when ENP meals are not available.

GANP also provides CalFresh application assistance to older adults participating in the ENP. The CalFresh application process is complicated and often overwhelming causing reluctance to apply. An outreach worker can assist participants in completing the CalFresh application, reducing the burden and stress of applying for benefits on their own. An outreach worker will inform participants if they may be eligible to receive benefits and provide information on what follow up applicants should expect from the county CalFresh office. CalFresh eligibility can only be determined by an eligibility worker at the county CalFresh office.

ENPs are not required to be part of the GANP pilot project. However, ENPs that are interested in participating in the GANP pilot project must meet certain requirements.

**GANP
eligibility and
redemption
requirements**

The following is a summary of GANP CalFresh eligibility and redemption requirements at ENPs.

The ENP must:

- Be an authorized Communal Dining Facility and/or Meal Delivery Service.
- Have equipment to redeem the participant's CalFresh benefits.
[7 CFR 278.1(d)]

The participant must:

- Be eligible to participate in the Title IIIC ENP.
- Be a CalFresh participant, receiving CalFresh benefits, and qualified to receive prepared meals.
[California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 7638.7 (a) and (c), CalFresh Manual of Policy and Procedures (MPP) 63-604.2 and 63-604.3, 7 CFR 274.7(g)(1) and (2)]

Becoming an Authorized CalFresh meal service

CDA encourages Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to work with their ENP providers to obtain authorization from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to participate in CalFresh as a Communal Dining Facility and/or Meal Delivery Service. It takes approximately 30 to 45 days to receive FNS authorization.

To obtain authorization ENPs must:

- Follow the process contained in “Procedures for Certification of Communal Dining or Meal Delivery Service” (Attachment 1).
- Complete the “Application for Meals Services” (FNS 252-2) to become an approved CalFresh Communal Dining Facility and/or Meal Delivery Service (Attachment 2).
- Complete a separate application for each point of sale (POS) location.

For questions on becoming an authorized CalFresh Meal Service, contact:

Kent Wells, Section Chief-Team 1, Retailer Operations Branch
 USDA-Food and Nutrition Service
 77 W. Jackson Blvd, 20th FL
 Chicago, IL 60604
 Phone: (312) 353-6609
 Fax: (312) 886-4660
KENT.WELLS@fns.usda.gov

Voluntary contribution requirements

Voluntary contributions are allowed and may be solicited for ENP services. Providers receiving GANP contributions from ENP participants must meet specific requirements for the solicitation of voluntary contributions.

AAAs shall ensure that each ENP and GANP service provider will:

- Provide each recipient with an opportunity to voluntarily contribute toward the cost of the meal.
- Clearly inform each recipient that there is no obligation to contribute and that the contribution is purely voluntary.
- Protect the privacy and confidentiality of each recipient with respect to the recipient’s contribution or lack of contribution.
- Establish appropriate procedures to safeguard and account for all contributions.
- Use all contributions to expand the service for which they were given and to supplement, not supplant, funds received under the OAA.
 [OAA Section 315(b)(4)(A-E)]

ENPs shall include the aforementioned contributions requirements in their written donations procedure. CDA encourages ENPs to provide staff and volunteer training on these procedures.

Data and information requirements

Participating ENPs are not required to collect any data; however, in the future, programs and/or participants may be asked to provide information on the GANP pilot project (e.g., opinions about and experiences with CalFresh, information or assistance offered at the site, suggestions for improvement).

CalFresh outreach and application assistance inquiries

For assistance in identifying the assigned CalFresh Outreach Partner, please follow this link to "CalFresh Outreach Plan Partners: Organized by County". <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/calfreshoutreach/res/pdf/CFPartnersbyCounty-toolkit.pdf>

In areas where the aforementioned CalFresh Outreach Partners are not available, ENPs may contact their local county welfare department. Please follow this link to access the CalFresh program specialist at your county CalFresh office. <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/calfreshoutreach/res/pdf/CountyCFContactList.pdf>

Where available, the California Association of Food Banks, Catholic Charities of California, and San Diego 2-1-1 have also agreed to work with ENPs interested in receiving CalFresh application assistance and/or CalFresh outreach. Below is the contact information for these agencies.

California Association of Food Banks (CAFB)
Stephanie Nishio, MPH, RD, Director of Programs
1624 Franklin Street, Suite 722
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: (510) 350-9905
stephanie@cafoodbanks.org
www.cafoodbanks.org

Catholic Charities of California (CCC)
Emily Battaglia, Programs Director
Phone: (530) 848-7128
emily@catholiccharitiesca.org
www.CatholicCharities.org

San Diego 2-1-1 (211)
Mignon Grey, Contract Manager
P.O. Box 420039
San Diego, CA 92142
Phone: (858) 300-1300
info@sandiego211.org

**CDSS EBT
inquiries**

For questions about EBT, please contact:

Joyce Bullivant, Manager, EBT Welfare Technology Unit
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 8-8-46
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 657-3804
joyce.bullivant@dss.ca.gov

**CDSS GANP
pilot project
inquiries**

For questions about GANP or CalFresh outreach, please contact:

Caryn Rizell, Manager, CalFresh Outreach
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 8-9-32
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-654-1435
caryn.rizell@dss.ca.gov

**CDA ENP
inquiries**

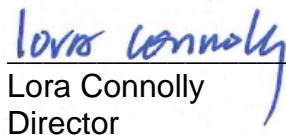
For questions about the ENP and GANP, please contact your assigned CDA Public Health Nutrition Consultant:

- Andrea Bricker at (916) 928-3324 or andrea.bricker@aging.ca.gov
- Barbara Estrada at (916) 928-3326 or barbara.estrada@aging.ca.gov

Resources

The following attachments provide information on becoming an authorized Communal Dining or Meal Delivery Service.

- **Attachment 1:** Procedures for Certification of Communal Dining or Meal Delivery Service
- **Attachment 2:** USDA SNAP Application for Meal Services (Form FNS 252-2)


Lora Connolly
Director