

October 17, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BENEFITS

(Bakersfield, CA) – The ongoing federal shutdown may cause concern regarding public assistance benefits. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), known as *CalWORKs* in California, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as *CalFresh*, are particularly vulnerable. *CalWORKs* is a cash aid program designed to help low-income families meet basic needs. The *CalFresh* program provides essential food benefits to low-income families, helping them afford necessary groceries.

Federal funds are expected to be available for October 2025, and benefits will be issued as usual. It is unknown how long the federal shutdown will last. A prolonged federal shutdown may impact benefits beginning in November 2025.

In the event benefits are not available for November 2025, the California Department of Social Services will notify recipients. The notice does not mean that benefits are terminated or that beneficiaries will lose eligibility. We strongly encourage beneficiaries to continue fulfilling all mandatory reporting requirements, including submitting the Semi-Annual Report (SAR 7) and renewals, along with any other necessary verifications. This will ensure that public assistance benefits are received promptly once they become available.

If beneficiaries require immediate assistance to meet their basic needs, please call the local 2-1-1 or visit their website at [211 Home Page - CAPK | Community Action Partnership of Kern](#).

For more information about public assistance programs, please visit the California Department of Social Services at [Home | California Dept. of Social Services](#).

Our department is committed to providing more information as it becomes available.



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