

# California Public Benefits Fact Sheet

## What is Medi-Cal?

Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid program. Medi-Cal provides affordable, high-quality health care services to children and adults who meet the Medi-Cal eligibility requirements.

The [Department of Health Care Services Medi-Cal and Covered California frequently asked questions page](#) has more information on Medi-Cal.

## What other benefits are available?

When applying for Medi-Cal, applicants may request other public benefits which could include CalFresh (SNAP) and CalWORKS (TANF).

CalFresh provides cash benefits towards healthy and nutritious food.

CalWORKS provides cash aid and services to eligible families who have a child in the home.

If there is no minor child in the home, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) provides cash aid and services to Office of Refugee Resettlement eligible populations.

## How to Apply for Public Benefits

Apply for benefits in your county of residence.

Individuals may apply online on the [MyBenefits CalWin website](#). Note, depending on the county of residence, the MyBenefits CalWin website may redirect some users to an alternate site, [BenefitsCal](#).

You will need to create an individual account and upload documents that are requested. As an alternative, [applications can be downloaded here from the California Department of Social Services website](#) and submitted in person to the local county Human or Social Service Agency. The [Department of Health Care Services County Offices webpage](#) can be used to find the local county office. On the county web pages, you can apply on-line. There are often multiple human services agencies within each county. You may also search by city for the district office nearest to you.

\*Please note that any individual 18 years or older must submit their own application for public benefits even if they reside in the same household as their parent/guardian.

## Supporting Documents Needed to Apply for Public Benefits

To apply for all public benefits in one application, copies of the following documents should be included for each member of the household to show eligibility. If these documents are not available, you may include a letter explaining why the document is not available or speak with the county eligibility worker during your interview. The county may be able to determine immigration status, even if a document is not available.

- I-94 admissions document
- Photo identification
- Proof of most recent immigration status (for example, letter granting asylum or the stamp granting humanitarian parole in the passport)
- Receipt for Employment Authorization Document (EAD) (if available)
- Social Security Number or Receipt for Application of Social Security Number (if available)
- Vaccine records for all minor aged children (if applying for CalWORKs)
- If pregnant , proof of pregnancy (If applying for CalWORKs)
- Lease agreement for housing (if not available, indicate current cost for housing, address of residence, and to whom the funds are paid)
- For refugees (all countries) and any sponsor-based petitions, letter indicating amount of funds directly paid from the sponsor circle to the beneficiary or vendor paid to an outside entity (for example, rent paid to a landlord to secure and pay for first housing)

Do not delay application for public benefits. Some are time sensitive. If you are missing a supporting document or experiencing delays in obtaining a supporting document, discuss this with the county eligibility worker. Exemptions for a “good cause” may be possible to activate your benefits while documents are pending.