

SNAP Glossary

A

Account – A food stamp or cash EBT account. § 16-005 (a) (1)

Administrative (Agency) Error (AE) An overpayment claim caused by **CWD** action or failure to take action 63-102(a)(3)

Administrative Terminal Interface – A PC-based software application that provides realtime, on-line access to the EBT system from county office locations and terminals. This interface directly links the local office terminal within the respective county and the EBT system. 16-005 (a)(2)

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) The financial aid program for needy children who lack parental support and care, replaced by **CalWORKs** in 1996. 63-102(a) (4)

Alien — An "alien" is a foreign-born person who is not a citizen or national of the United States. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 101(a)(3), 8 U.S.C. section 1101(a)(3). Within U.S. immigration law there are four broad classes of aliens: (1) persons seeking admission to the United States; (2) persons admitted permanently as immigrants (also called permanent residents or green card holders); (3) persons admitted temporarily as non-immigrants; and (4) undocumented persons or "illegal" aliens who are here without permission from the federal government.

Allotment — The total value of benefits a household is authorized to receive during each calendar month of certification. 63-102(a)(5)

Application — The forms a household member or authorized representative complete when applying for Food Stamps; the forms used to apply for **CalWORKs** by households in which all members apply for or receive Public Assistance, including any necessary Food Stamp Program attachments approved by **FNS**. 63-102 (a)(7)

Assistance Unit (AU) – A group of related persons living in the same home who have been determined eligible for **CalWORKs** benefits. 16-005 (a)(3)

Authorized Representative (AR) – The person designated by a food stamp household to act on its behalf in making application for the Food Stamp Program or obtaining and using benefits. The AR will receive an EBT card to access the food stamp benefit account for the purpose of purchasing food items on the household's behalf. 16-005 (a)(4)

Automated Teller Machine (ATM) – An unattended terminal from which one or more cash EBT and/or banking transactions can be performed, including balance inquiries and cash withdrawals. 16-005 (a)(7)

Availability Date – A date assigned to every recipient's benefit issuance that determines the date on which that benefit is to be accessible to the cardholder. 16-005 (a)(8)

B

Balance Inquiry – A nonfinancial transaction that permits the cardholder to obtain the current balance of the recipient's account. 16-005(b)(1)

Business Day – Any day that the **Federal Reserve Bank of New York** is open for business. 16-005(b)(3)

C

Calendar Month — Period running from the first of the month through the end of the month. 63-102 (c)(1)

California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) — State program that provides Food Stamp benefits to noncitizens legally present in the United States who are ineligible for federal Food Stamps per § 63-405. 63-102 (c)(2)

CalWORKs —The financial aid program for needy children who lack parental support and care; California's **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** Program.

Cardholder – Individual who has been issued and authorized to use a card. Cardholder can be the recipient or other designated individuals. 16-005(c)(3)

Caretaker Relative – Relative, related to the degree specified in § 82-808.11, who lives with a child who is part of the filing unit, and exercises responsibility for the day to-day care and control of the child. 16-005(c)(4)

Case – Single beneficiary unit receiving benefits from one or more programs through a single recipient account. 16-005(c)(5)

Cash Program – Any other non-Food Stamp program, e.g., CalWORKs, General Assistance. 16-005(c)(6)

Cash Withdrawal Transaction – Transaction in which a cardholder obtains cash at a **POS** or **ATM** location without also making a purchase. 16-005(c)(7)

Categorical Eligibility (CE) — Persons considered eligible for food stamps, as specified in §§ 63-301.6, .7 and .8, because of the household's eligibility for **Public Assistance (PA)** or **General Assistance (GA)**. 63-102 (c)(3)

Child/Spousal Support Disregard Payment — Payments received from an absent parent and passed through to **CalWORKs** recipients. These payments are considered income for **CalWORKs** and the Food Stamp Program. 63-502.122

Combined Households — Households with participants of the federal **Food Stamp Program** and **California Food Assistance Program (CFAP)**. 63-102 (c)(6)

Commercial Boarding House — Establishment licensed as an enterprise which offers meals and lodging for compensation and profit. In a county without licensing requirements, a commercial boarding house is a commercial establishment which offers meals and lodging for compensation with the intent of making a

profit. The number of boarders residing in a boarding house may not be used to determine if a boarding house is a commercial enterprise. 63-102 (c)(6)

Communal Dining Facility — FNS-approved establishment that prepares and serves meals for elderly persons, or for SSI recipients and their spouses; a public or private nonprofit establishment (eating or otherwise) that feeds elderly persons or SSI recipients and their spouses, and federally subsidized housing for the elderly at which meals are prepared for and served to the residents. 63-102 (c)(8)

Compliance with CWD Time Limits — Taking action within the time frames specified. If the last day for taking action falls on a Saturday, the CWD shall take action on or before that date. When the last day for taking action falls on a Sunday or other holiday, as specified in Government Code §§ 6700 and 6701, the CWD shall take action on the next working day except for expedited service time frames in § 63-301.531. 63-102 (c)(9).

Actions to discontinue or for other actions requiring 10-day noticing which fall on a weekend, the provisions of MPP section 63-102(c)(9) will apply. For 30-day denial actions falling on a weekend, a full 30 days must have passed before the denial action can be imposed per MPP section 63-301.32 and .33.

All County Information Notice 1-58-08

County Welfare Department (CWD) — Agency of CA county government that has been delegated responsibility for administering the federally aided public assistance programs within the county. 63-102 (c)(9)

D

Date of entry or Date of admission — Date established by the **United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)** as the date a sponsored alien was admitted for permanent residence. 63-102(d) (1)

Days — Refers to calendar days, unless stated otherwise. 63-102(d) (2)

Department — Throughout the Food Stamp regulations, California **Department of Social Services**. 63-102(d)(4)

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) — Created by the Homeland Security Act of 2002, DHS replaced the INS on March 1, 2003. DHS is divided into: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) processes immigration petitions such as naturalization and asylum applications; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) handles immigration enforcement within the U.S. border, while U.S. Customs And Border Protection (CBP) handles enforcement matters outside the U.S. border.

Department of Social Services (DSS) California administrative agency that oversees public benefit programs including CalWORKs and Food Stamps.

Designated Alternate Cardholder (DAC) – Responsible individual designated by the head of the assistance unit to receive an EBT card and PIN to access cash benefits. This individual is not a member of the assistance unit. 16-005(d)(1)

Director — The director of the **California Department of Social Services**. 63-102(d)(5)

Disaster — Disaster that the President officially declares or one that has not been declared but is severe enough to disrupt commercial channels of food distribution. **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

(FEMA) explains the **declaration process** and maintains a **database of declared emergencies** by State and date. 63-102(d)(6); 63-900.

Disaster Food Stamp Program (DFSP) — DFSP provides replacement benefits for food stamp households that lose food **Replacement Food Stamp Benefits (RFSP)** and extends benefits to households that would not be eligible for food stamps. Conducting a DFSP usually requires a Presidential declaration. **Disaster Food Stamp Supplemental Benefits (SDFSP)** are additional benefits provided to current food stamp households to bring their food stamp allotment to the same level as new disaster food stamp households. All County Letter No. 08-30

Instead of a full DFSP, a state may seek **waivers** from **FNS** that relax program requirements such as verification procedures, work rules, and restrictions on certain immigrants.

Doctor or Medical Licensed Practitioner – A licensed health care professional authorized by state law to diagnose/treat physical and/or mental impairments. This includes, but is not limited to, Doctors of Medicine, Acupuncturists, Chiropractors, Educational Psychologists, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses (Registered and Vocational), Physical Therapists, Psychiatrists, Psychiatric Technicians, and Clinical Psychologists. 16-005(d)(2)

Dormant Account – Status of an EBT account indicating that no debit activity has taken place for 180 days. 16-005(d)(3) ACL 08-37 (August 1, 2008)

E

Elderly or Disabled Member — Defined at 63-102(e)(1)(A)-(K) to include “elderly” as someone over 60 years and “disabled” as someone who receives **SSI, Social Security Disability Benefits, VA benefits** (including certain spouses and children), **Railroad Retirement benefits, Medi-Cal or disability-based general assistance benefits** based upon disability or blindness criteria which are at least as stringent as those used for SSI. Per § 63-402.22, SSI recipients are included as a household member for purposes of household composition. However, they are excluded from the household for the purpose of determining household size, eligibility or benefit level.

EBT Card – A plastic card, issued in accordance with Chapter 16-500, which can be used to effect transactions. 16-005(e)(2)

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) – The electronic transfer of government funds to individuals through card technology, **ATMs**, and **POS** terminals. 16-005(e)(1)

Eligible Food — 63-102(e)(2) defines types of food and meals that may be purchased by **Food Stamps**. This list includes any food product intended for human consumption (except alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and hot foods and hot food products prepared for immediate consumption); seeds and plants; meals purchased by eligible elderly, or homeless or disabled food stamp households under a **DSS**-approved restaurant meal program; meals prepared for the elderly, those in alcohol or drug treatment centers, **SSI** or **SSDI** recipients, battered women and children; homeless people.

Eviction — The process by which tenants are excluded from the property they rent. See **Unlawful Detainer**.

Expunged Account – Status of an EBT account indicating that no debit activity has taken place for 365 days. 16-005(e)(6) ACL 08-37 (August 1, 2008)

F

Federal fiscal year — Period of 12 calendar months beginning with October 1 and ending with September 30 of the following year. 63-102(f)(2)

Fingerprint Imaging — Process that automatically scans an individual's fingerprint and produces a fingerprint image. This image is added to the **Statewide Fingerprint Imaging System (SFIS)** database. 63-102(f)(3)

Fleeing Felon — An individual fleeing to avoid prosecution, or custody or confinement after conviction, under the law of the place from which the individual is fleeing, for a crime or attempt to commit a crime, that is a felony under the law of the place from which the individual is fleeing. The existence of a warrant for arrest shall be presumed to be evidence of fleeing, unless rebutted by other evidence sufficient to prove that the individual had no knowledge that s/he was being sought by law enforcement. 63-102(f)(4)

FNS Authorized Retailer – Any firm, i.e., retail food store, that is authorized by FNS to accept and redeem food stamp benefits. 16-005(f)(1)

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) – The Food and Nutrition Service of the US Department of Agriculture. The FNS administers the Food Stamp Program. 16-005(f)(2)

Food Stamp Merchandise Refund – A transaction initiated with a card to credit a cardholder's food stamp account for a return of merchandise originally purchased under the Food Stamp Program with the same card. 16-005(f)(3)

Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 — Authorizing legislation that changes the name of the **Food Stamp Program** to the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**, effective 10/1/08.

Food Stamp Program (FSP) – A food assistance program governed by FNS that helps low-income people buy the food they need for good health. The program is operated under the authority of the **Food Stamp Act of 1977**, as amended. Effective October 1, 2008, **Food and Nutrition Act of 2008** changes the FSP's name to the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**. 16-005(f)(4); 63-102(f)(5)

Food Stamp Act of 1977 was renamed the **Food and Nutrition Act of 2008** by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (P.L.110-246) enacted June 18, 2008.

Food Stamp Purchase – Transaction initiated with a card at an **FNS** retailer that is authorized from a food stamp account, the entire transaction amount of which is for the purchase of products or services permitted under the Food Stamp Program. 16-005(f)(5)

G

General Assistance (GA) — Cash or another form of assistance, excluding in-kind assistance, financed by county funds as part of a program which provides assistance to cover living expenses or other basic needs intended to promote the health or well-being of recipients. Such programs include County General Assistance (GA)/General Relief (GR). 63-102(g)(1)

Group living arrangement — Public or private nonprofit residential setting, serving no more than sixteen residents, that is licensed by the Department of Social Services. To be eligible for food stamp benefits, a resident of such a group living arrangement must be blind or disabled and receiving benefits under Title II (Retirement, Survivors, Disability Insurance benefits) or Title XVI (SSI) of the Social

Security Act. However, if per Section 63-402.225, Title XVI recipients are ineligible for food stamps, this ineligibility shall apply to Title XVI (SSI) recipients who are residing in group living arrangements. 63-102(g)(2)

H

Homeless Assistance payments — CalWORKs payments for temporary shelter assistance for a homeless family seeking permanent housing, not to exceed the current temporary shelter consecutive-day time limit; payments for permanent housing to pay for security deposits and utility deposits once permanent 63-102(h)(1)

Homeless individual — Individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence or an individual whose primary nighttime residence is a supervised shelter; halfway house; temporary accommodation in the residence of another individual for no more than 90 days as specified in 63-102(h)(2).

Household Disaster — Natural event such as flood, tornado, or a devastating event such as a fire. 63-102(h)(3).

I

Identification (ID) card —DFA 287. 63-102(i)(1)

Immigration And Nationality Act (INA) — The basic law governing the immigration and nationality policy of the United States. Since 1952 Congress generally has enacted amendments to the INA.

Inaccessible Resource — A resource or vehicle that would be exempt from consideration if its equity value is \$1,500 or less. 63-102(i)(4)

Inadvertent Household Error (IHE) — Claim for an overpayment resulting from an unintentional error on the part of the household 63-102(i)(5)

Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) — (see § 20-006.1). Computer matching Systems that verify information in determining CalWORKs, Food Stamp, and Medi-Cal Program eligibility. **IEVS** matches information reported by CalWORKs, Food Stamps, Medi-Cal and General Assistance applicants and recipients with data from these sources: Employment Development Department (EDD); Social Security Administration, Systematic Alien Verification For Entitlement; Homeless Assistance Payment Indicator System; Franchise Tax Board Asset Match; Overpayment/Over-issuance Indicator; Internal Revenue Service Asset Match (Annually); Nationwide Prisoner Match.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) — the Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice. **Department of Homeland Security** replaced the Immigration and Naturalization Service on March 1, 2003. DHS is divided into three sections: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) processes immigration petitions such as naturalization and asylum applications; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) handles immigration enforcement within the U.S. border, while U.S. Customs And Border Protection (CBP) handles enforcement matters outside the U.S. border.

L

Liquid Resources —Resources in the form of cash or are readily converted into cash. Such resources shall include but may not be limited to cash on hand, money in checking or savings accounts, savings certificates, trust deeds, notes receivable, stocks or bonds, and nonrecurring lump-sum payments unless specifically excluded in § 63-501.3. 63-102(l)(1)

Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) — Immigrants who have been granted a status that allows them to reside and work permanently in the United States. LPRs can travel abroad and return to the U.S., as long as they have not abandoned their U.S. residence or committed acts that would make them inadmissible under immigration law. LPRs may apply for naturalization to U.S. citizenship after living in the U.S. for five years (three years if married to a U.S. citizen, and one year for certain persons in the military and Veterans). LPRs may lose permanent residence status only by abandoning it or by being stripped of it in rescission, exclusion, deportation, or removal proceedings.

M

Mass change — defined at Section 63-504.39. 63-102 (m)(1)

Meal delivery service — A political subdivision, a private nonprofit organization, or a private establishment which contracts with a local agency for preparing and delivering meals at concessional prices to elderly persons and their spouses; and to the physically or mentally disabled and their spouses, such that they are unable to adequately prepare all of their meals. 63-102 (m)(4)

Meal Provider for the Homeless — A public or private nonprofit establishment that feeds homeless persons, (e.g., soup kitchen or shelter), which has been authorized by the **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)** to accept food stamp benefits. 63-102 (m)(5)

Medicaid — Medical assistance for low income people under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, as amended. Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid program. 63-102 (m)(6)

Medical licensed practitioner — Qualified health professional authorized by state law include but not be limited to the following: Acupuncturists, Chiropractors, Educational Psychologists, Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses (Registered, Vocational, Home Administrators and Registry), Physical Therapists, Podiatrists, Psychiatrists, Psychiatric Technicians and Clinical Psychologists. 63-102 (m)(8)

Migrant Farmworker — An individual who does not live at his/her home, but rather travels from place to place outside the project area in which the individual resides, to seek employment in an agricultural production activity. A migrant household is a household which includes a member who is a migrant farmworker during the certification period. 63-102 (m)(9)

Mixed Household — Food stamp household in which less than all members receive public assistance in addition to food stamp benefits. For purposes of these regulations, mixed households shall be considered nonassistance households and shall be subject to the same procedures as nonassistance households except as otherwise specified. 63-102 (m)(10)

N

Nonassistance Household — Household which receives food stamp benefits and in which none or less than all of its members also receive public assistance. 63-102 (n)(1)

Nonliquid Resources — Resources which are not in the form of cash and are not readily converted into cash. Such resources shall include but may not be limited to personal property, licensed and unlicensed vehicles, buildings, land, recreational properties, and any other property, unless specifically excluded in § 63-501.3. 63-102 (n)(2)

Notice of Action (NOA) — A form provided to a household informing them of an action which has been or will be taken concerning the household's eligibility status or level of benefits. 63-102 (n)(4)

Notice of Missed Interview (NOMI) — Notification to the household that it missed its first scheduled interview and that the household is responsible for rescheduling the missed interview within 30 days of the application date. 63-102 (n)(5)

O

Options — Federal regulations allow states to select from listed options on determining food stamp eligibility, reporting changes in household circumstances; providing food stamps to households leaving TANF, and aligning food stamp and TANF program rules for families receiving both types of assistance. States, at their own discretion, may implement an option; they do not have to request permission from FNS

Overissuance — Amount by which benefits issued to a household exceeds the amount it was eligible to receive. 63-102 (o)(1)

P

Personal Identification Number (PIN) – A four to six character alphanumeric code issued to or selected by a cardholder. 16-005(p)(1)

Photo ID Card — Identification card used in a **Photo Identification Card System** to identify the bearer as eligible to receive and use Food Stamps. 63-102 (p)(3)

Photo Identification Card System — System that meets all the requirements of § 63-504.8. The photo identification card system may utilize a single identification card which meets the requirements of Sections 63-504.7 and 63-504.8 or two identification cards which together meet the requirements of these sections. 63-102 (p)(4)

Photo Imaging— The process that automatically scans an individual's facial features and produces a facial image. The image is added to the statewide SFIS database. 63-102 (p)(5)

Point of Sale (POS) – Typically used to reference equipment (e.g., terminal, PIN pad and printer) at a retail location that is used to initiate the electronic debit of recipient accounts and credit to retailer accounts as a purchase is being made. 16-005(p)(2)

Prescreening — Gathering information prior to filing an application to perform a preliminary review of eligibility for participation in the Food Stamp Program. Prescreening does not include gathering information to refer an applicant to the appropriate program or office. 63-102 (p)(6)

Primary Account Number (PAN) – The account number that identifies the issuer and the cardholder and that is fully displayed and encoded on the card. 16-005(p)(3)

Program — Throughout the regulations, refers to the **Food Stamp Program** conducted under the **Food Stamp Act** and regulations. 63-102 (p)(7)

Public Assistance (PA) — Program funded under Title IV-A of the Social Security Act of 1935, as amended, or matching state funds for public assistance programs; for example, CalWORKs. 63-102 (p)(12)

R

Refugee — Persons outside their country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear thereof must be based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Refugees are subject to ceilings by geographic area set annually by the President in consultation with Congress and are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after one year of continuous presence in the United States.

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) — Cash assistance provided under Title IV of the **Immigration and Nationality Act** to refugees who are ineligible for **CalWORKs** or **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** and who have resided in the United States for less than a 12-month period from their initial entry into the country. 63-102 (r)(6)

Regulations — Food Stamp Manual rules. Regulatory citations refer to provisions of this manual unless otherwise specified. 63-102 (r)(5)

Receipt – In commercial networks, hard copy description of a transaction that took place at the POS or ATM, containing at a minimum the date, merchant name and location, primary account number (truncated), type of account accessed, amount, reference number, and an action code. 16-005(r)(1)

S

Systematic Alien Verification For Entitlements (SAVE) — A system used to verify an applicant's immigration status. An agency forwards copies of an applicant's immigration documents to the DHS, which utilizes its computer database (and sometimes manual procedures) to verify an immigrant's status.

Settlement – The process by which retailers and ATM owners are reimbursed on a daily basis for authorized benefits they have redeemed during the most recently completed transaction day and by which funds are drawn from each individual benefit program's funding account to cover that day's financial settlement. 16-005 (s)(1)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) — Effective 10/1/08, the new name for the **Food Stamp Program**.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) — Federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (not Social Security taxes) designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people, who have little or no income; and provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. Title XVI of Social Security Act.

Social Security Disability Benefits (SSDI) — Federal benefits for disabled workers (and certain family members) who are “insured” — worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes.. Title II of the Social Security Act.

Surcharge – A fee added to a transaction by an acquirer, terminal operator or merchant for a transaction initiated at a POS or ATM terminal. 16-005 (s)(2)

T

TANF Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; CalWORKs is California's TANF program.

Thrifty Food Plan — USDA's estimate of what it costs to purchase a minimally adequate diet that serves as the government's basis for Food Stamp allotments. The Thrifty Food Plan is the least expensive market basket of food the government prices and recommends for short-term use. The maximum benefit level in the Food Stamp Program is based on the cost of the TFP. Every several years, USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion revises the TFP to take account of new trends in food prices, food characteristics, and consumer spending behavior. USDA's most recent TFP revision is: The Thrifty Food Plan, 2006.

The Thrifty Food Plan is unrealistic for even the thriftiest food shopper – it assumes that they have an in-depth knowledge about nutrition and how to select the healthiest items for the least amount of money, and that they have enough time to prepare most meals from scratch. The Food Research & Action Center points to studies that have shown that the food stamp benefit based on the Thrifty Food Plan is not sufficient for most recipients to be able to purchase the food package in stores in their neighborhoods. For example, researchers in Boston reported that the actual cost of the Thrifty Food Plan exceeded the maximum food stamp allotment in both the small and large stores. Averaging across all stores, the maximum food stamp allotment fell short by almost \$27 per month for a family of four.

<http://www.frac.org/pdf/thriftyfoodplanSEP08.pdf>

Trafficking – As defined by 7 CFR 271.2, trafficking means the buying or selling of coupons, ATP cards or other benefit instruments for cash or consideration other than eligible food; or the exchange of firearms, ammunition, explosives, or controlled substances, as defined in Section 802 of Title 21, United States Code, for food stamp benefits. 16-005(t)(2)

Transaction Day – A 24-hour daily cycle for which funds settlement occurs. 16-005(t)(3)

U

Unlawful Detainer — The California legal process used to evict a tenant from lawfully occupied premises.

USDA U.S. Department of Agriculture

W

Waiver — Procedure that allows states to deviate from a specific program regulation. States must submit a written request to and obtain approval from FNS before making a change. 7 CFR § 272.3(c)