

People with a Felony Conviction

Characteristics unique to people with a felony conviction

Having a felony conviction may make securing a job and/or other public benefits difficult.

What is the relevant CalFresh regulation?

- Individuals with a prior felony drug conviction may now be eligible for CalFresh benefits.
 - ▶ Changes effective April 2015 have removed restrictions for those convicted of any drug felony, including distribution and manufacturing.
 - ▶ All individuals must be compliant with the terms of his or her probation or parole, including participation in a government recognized drug treatment program, if required.
- For the current policy regarding drug felon see: ACL 14-100.
- Fleeing felons are ineligible for CalFresh.

Based on the regulation, what unique steps must occur to accommodate this special population?

Prescreening: Individuals need to meet the income eligibility requirements.

Eligibility: Individuals with prior felony drug convictions must be in compliance with the terms of their parole or probation in order to be eligible to receive CalFresh benefits. No additional verification shall be required of individuals with a previous felony drug conviction.

Benefit Retention: Benefit retention is the same as all other applicants in addition to being in compliance with probation or parole.

Adding a person to the CalFresh household generally gives you more food benefits. If the person is also added to CalWORKs, and the cash aid goes up, the CalFresh benefits may go down. Individuals will get a notice if their CalFresh benefits change.

