

Unaccompanied Youth

What is an “unaccompanied youth”?

An “unaccompanied youth” term to describe a minor (under age 18) who is living separately from his/her parents or guardians. Unaccompanied youth may be living with others (such as friends) or maybe be homeless or couch surfing.

Unaccompanied Youth and CalFresh Program (Food Assistance)

Since the CalFresh Program does not have an age requirement, as long as a youth/child is under age 18 year, she/he may be able to apply for the CalFresh Program.

An “Unaccompanied Youth” can apply for CalFresh on his/her own, when he/she:

- Is **not** living in same home as his/her parents
- Is living where no adult has parental control/authority over him/her.
- Is determined to be “purchasing, preparing and eating food separately from others.
- Is not in Foster Care.

Note: If the unaccompanied youth is sharing food and meals with the family or group of people that he/she is living with, then the youth will need to apply for CalFresh with that “household”.

For more information on Unaccompanied Youth, contact the Department of Social Services or the youth’s school.

