

Santa Clara County CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program (Formerly known as Food Stamp Restaurant Meals Program) Increase Your Business While Serving Your Community.

The Santa Clara County CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program is an opportunity for your business to expand while at the same time providing a valuable service to your community.

What is the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program?

Typically, CalFresh (formerly known as Food Stamps) recipients can only use their benefits to purchase unprepared food. However, with the CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program, homeless, disabled and elderly (60 and over) CalFresh households can use their EBT cards to purchase meals from participating restaurants. EBT cards work similar to debit cards.

How to Apply

1. Complete the “USDA Food Stamp Application for Meal Services” (FNS 252-2). The application can be obtained from the internet (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/retailers/pdfs/FNS-252-2.pdf>).

Read the instructions carefully and enter all required information, including spouse information required in Part 4. The application requires an original signature of one of the owners/officers. You can complete one application for two or more restaurants if these restaurants are under the same ownership and structure. You must submit the following documents with your application:
 - a. A copy of a government issued photo ID for all owners/officers listed on the application
 - b. Verification of social security number (i.e. a copy of the Social Security card) for all owners /officers listed on the application
 - c. A copy of the business license for each location.
2. Contact Santa Clara County Social Services Agency (SSA) Restaurant Meals Program Coordinator at (408) 755-7728 to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). You will need to provide the following:
 - a. A copy of your business’s Certificate of Liability Insurance and Additionally Insured Certificate.
 - b. A current copy of your public health operating permit
 - c. Your restaurant’s complaint form (if you don’t have one you’ll need to develop one specifically for the Restaurant Meals Program)
 - d. A copy of the FNS application and supporting documents
3. After approval of the MOU, copies of all documents, and a copy of the signed MOU are sent to:
USDA – FNS
3500 Wabash Ave.
Springfield, IL 62711

4. FNS will contact you directly if they need any additional information to process your application.

Once your Restaurant is Approved

1. Provide Santa Clara County SSA Restaurant Meals Coordinator with a copy of the FNS authorization document upon receipt.
2. Contact a POS vendor to obtain EBT equipment, or contact your POS vendor to configure your existing machines to accept the new program. (Can only be done *after* FNS approval.)
3. Provide low cost meals:
 - a. Meals that cost less than what would be charge to customers not using food stamp benefits or
 - b. Discounted meals already offered to certain consumers or advertised special or sale price meals offered to all consumers.
4. Cannot charge gratuities
5. Cannot charge sales tax
6. Must post Santa Clara County-provided Restaurant Meals Program signage informing the general public of your participation in the program (sign will be provided by Santa Clara County SSA)

Questions?

Call...

Department of Employment and Benefits Services

SSA Restaurant Meals Coordinator

408-755-7728

333 W. Julian Street, 4th Floor

San Jose, Ca. 95110

Or

Office of Contract Management

408-755-7747

333 W. Julian Street, 5th Floor

San Jose, Ca 95110