

# 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.*

