

## Maximizing Deductions for CalFresh Checklist

1. Dependent Care Deduction:
  - Deduction equal to the actual amount paid for the care of a child or other dependent in the household. Dependent care costs covered by subsidies may not be deducted for purposes of CalFresh.
  - Dependent care costs can be verified through an affidavit but **information provided on any application form counts as formal verification.**
  - Expenses paid on a weekly or bi-weekly basis will be converted to a monthly expense by multiplying the weekly expense by 4.33 or bi-weekly expense by 2.167.
2. Standard Deduction:
  - Provided to all households by HHS. Size of the deduction is solely dependent upon the number of people in the household.
  - No verification needed beyond the number of people in the household.
3. Earned Income Deduction:
  - Deduction based on the amount of income received from working.
  - Individuals working for someone else receive a deduction of 20% of their monthly wages.
  - Individuals identifying as self-employed receive a 40% deduction or can itemize expenses.
  - Verification of earned income required.
4. Utility Deduction
  - Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) of \$560 for households with heating and cooling costs separate from their rent or mortgage payments
    - Allowable heating/cooling costs include but are not limited to: propane, wood/pellets, coal, and electricity.
  - Households with expenses for at least two separate types of utilities (other than heating and cooling) are eligible for a Limited Utility Allowance (LUA) of \$150.
  - All households who are not paying for utilities separately, would benefit from the full SUA deduction, and have not maxed their shelter deduction will be eligible through a \$20.01 allotment of LIHEAP. HHS will calculate and ensure clients receive.
5. Shelter Deduction
  - All individuals paying for shelter costs in excess of 50% of the household's income are eligible.
  - The excess shelter deduction cannot exceed the maximum with the exception of households with members over 60 or with a disability.
  - Expenses can include rent, mortgage, homeowners' association fees, loan payments on other forms of shelter (e.g. mobile home), property taxes, and home repair costs not already subsidized.
6. Standard Medical Deduction
  - Individuals over 60 years of age or with a disability are eligible to deduct medical expenses.
  - Clients can deduct all medical expenses over \$35/month, to receive the standard medical deduction or if their expenses are more than \$155/month, they can deduct actual costs.

