



**WESTERN CENTER**  
ON LAW & POVERTY

# 2019 LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES FOR FINANCIAL & FOOD SECURITY

## PART 2

### **AB 942 (WEBER)** **CALFRESH: RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM**

#### **PROBLEM: Unequal access to CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program.**

The CalFresh Restaurant Meals Program is an optional county program that allows CalFresh recipients 60 years of age or older, disabled, or homeless to use CalFresh to purchase lower cost prepared meals at approved participating restaurants in certain counties. The State Department of Social Services issues an annual letter providing guidance for which counties or regions are eligible to participate in the Restaurant Meals Program, and instructions for how a county may choose to participate or appeal a determination by the department that the county is ineligible.

#### **SOLUTION: AB 942**

Requires the department to establish a statewide Restaurant Meals Program on or before September 1, 2020.

### **SB 490 (HURTADO)** **CALFRESH: BENEFIT OVERISSUANCE**

#### **PROBLEM: CalFresh food stamp recipients forced to pay back over-issued food stamps, even if it was the county's error.**

If a household is no longer receiving CalFresh benefits, current law prohibits the establishment or collection of a CalFresh overissuance caused by administrative error if the overissuance is less than \$125 or the minimum statewide cost-effective threshold established by the state, whichever is greater, and existing law requires collection if the overissuance is caused by inadvertent household error and the overissuance is \$35 or more.

#### **SOLUTION: SB 490**

Increases threshold overissuance claim amounts to \$400 for a household that is no longer receiving CalFresh benefits. It also requires the State Department of Social Services to develop and implement a policy for compromising administrative error claims, in whole or in part, for households that include at least one elderly or disabled member

### **AB 833 (LACKEY)** **PARKING PENALTIES**

#### **PROBLEM: Low-income drivers get DMV holds on registration when they can't pay parking tickets and late fees.**

Local governments that choose to place DMV registration holds to collect unpaid parking tickets can do so if they offer payment plans to indigent drivers who owe \$300 or less in late parking fines.

#### **SOLUTION: AB 833**

Clarifies state law regarding the ability of a local government to place holds on DMV registrations. When determining eligibility for the \$300 limit, local governments cannot include late fees owed on parking tickets.