

Hunger will strike in 2023: Buffer the CalFresh Cliff with WIC



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Food insecurity in LAC, inflation, food scarcity:

Families with young children especially vulnerable



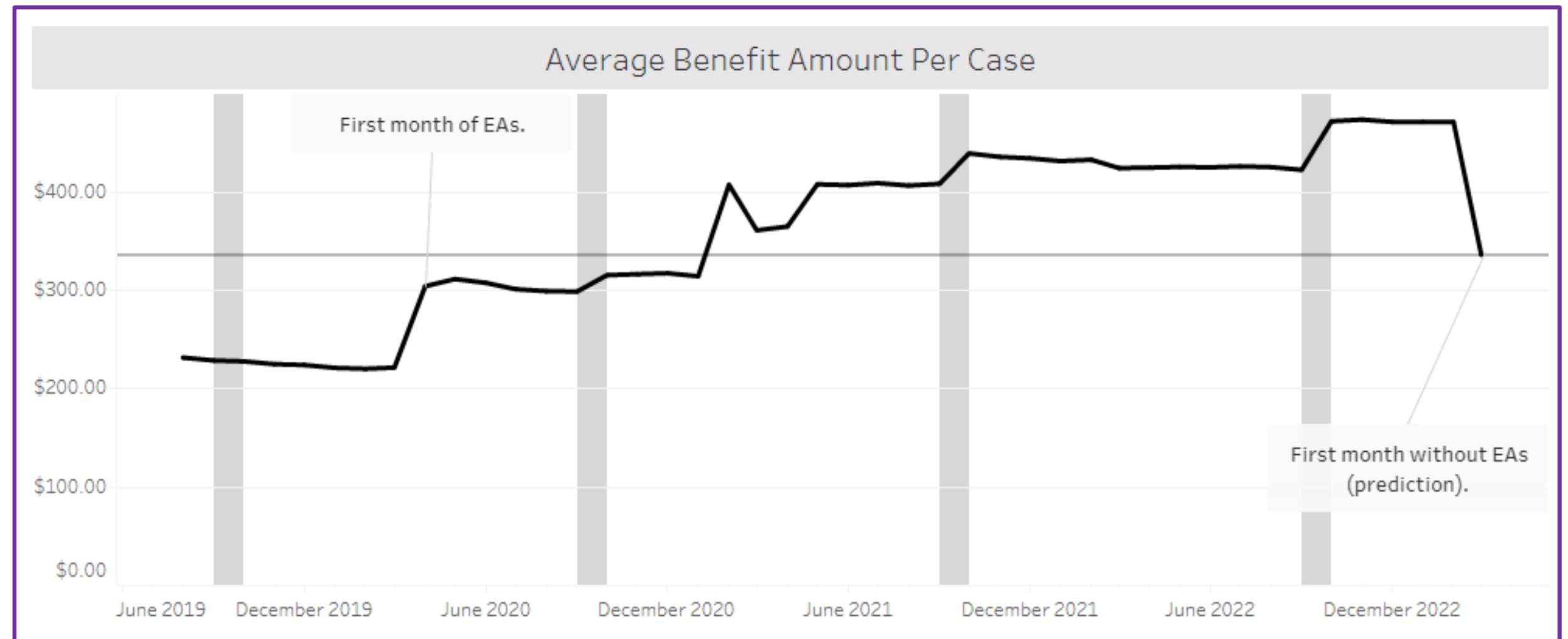
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The CalFresh Cliff



Jared Call, Senior Advocate
Nourish California



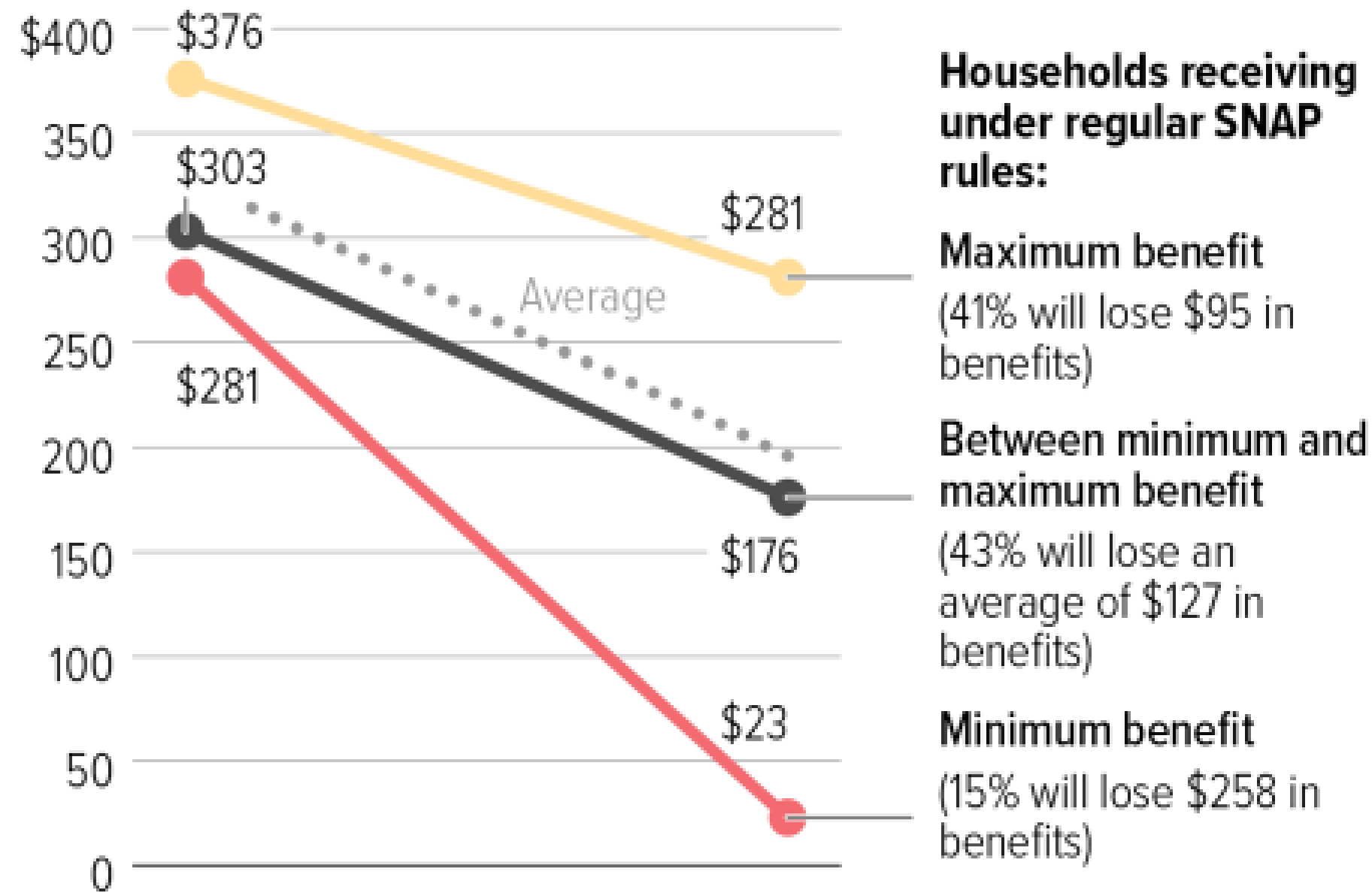
Source: LA Regional Food Bank



CalFresh Benefit Cliff

Opportunities to boost
CalFresh benefits to mitigate
hunger & hardship

Losses Will Vary Across Households, But Average 1-Person Household Will Lose \$132 When SNAP Emergency Allotments End



Note: Figures may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Estimates based on CBPP analysis of fiscal year 2019 SNAP Household Characteristics data with income and expenses inflated to fiscal year 2023 values

Opportunity to Boost Benefits: Under-Claimed Deductions

Dependent Care & Medical Expense

The Dependent Care Deduction

- Deduction is for households where care of a dependent is needed.
- Many types of care qualify.
- A variety of expenses may be claimed.
- State agencies have flexibility with household claiming actual expenses.

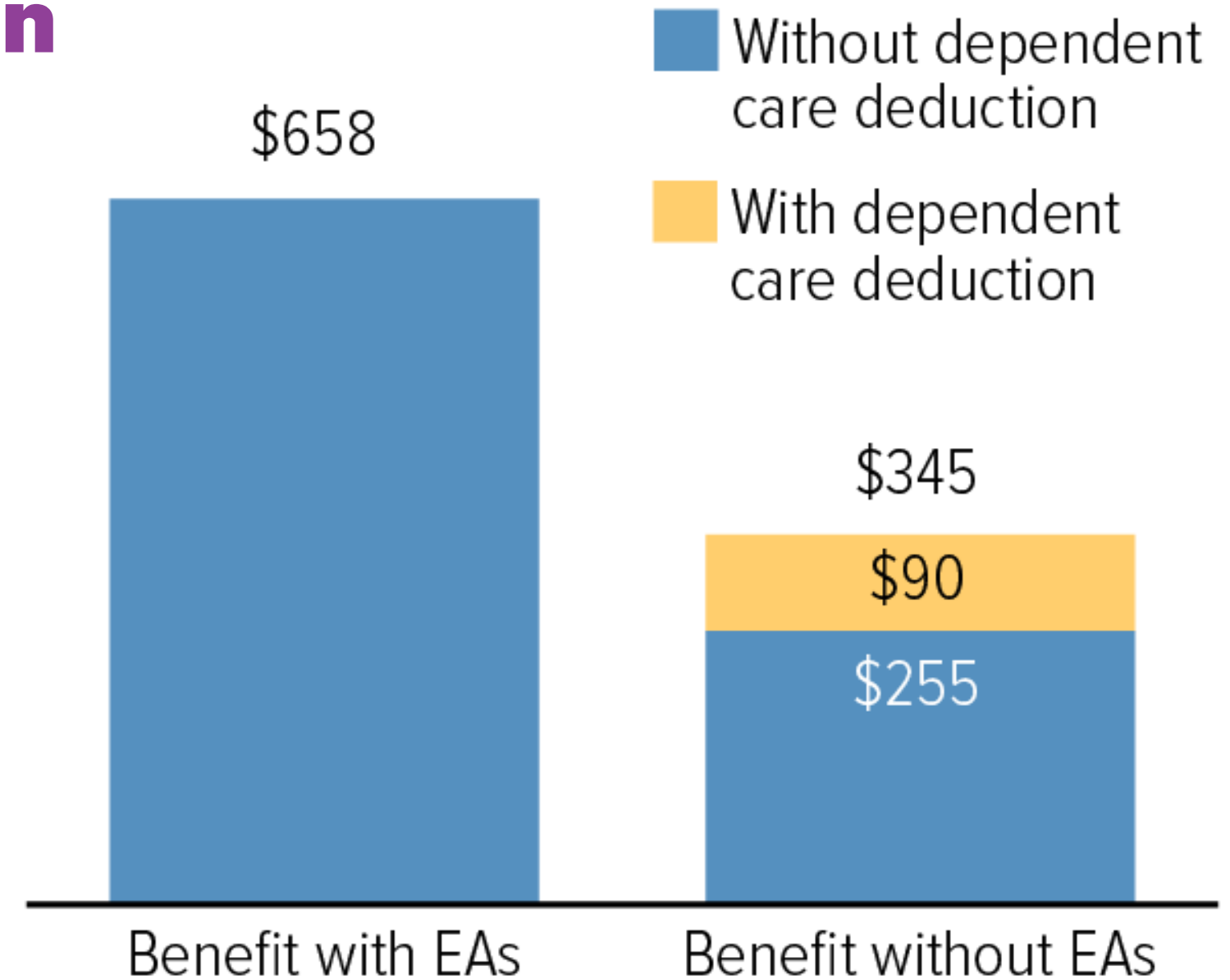
What Types of Care Count?

- Formal & informal child and adult care,
 - Child care by extended family members, neighbors, or others outside of household.
- Before and after school care,
- Summer and vacation camp programs,
- At-risk youth programs,
 - YMCA, Boys' and Girls' Club
- Childcare expenses include expenses for all children *under 18 years of age*.

Example 1: Dependent Care Deduction



The Gold family has a gross income of \$1,900 per month and \$300 in dependent care expenses.



Source: CBPP calculation based on fiscal year 2022 SNAP benefit parameters for household of three with children and with monthly income of \$1,900 and \$300 in medical expenses

The Share of Eligible Households That Claim the Dependent Care Deduction Varies by State



Rank	State	Percent Claiming	Average Dependent Care Deduction in FY 2019	# of Single Adults Working Households with Children	# of These Households Claiming Dependent Care Deductions
	United States	21%	\$304	2,076,000	446,000
1	Maryland	34%	\$598	41,000	14,000
5	Washington	32%	\$120	38,000	12,000
7	Oregon	31%	\$263	22,000	7,000
14	Idaho	28%	\$198	9,000	2,700
33	Nevada	19%	\$414	22,000	4,000
50	California	10%	\$450	155,000	16,100

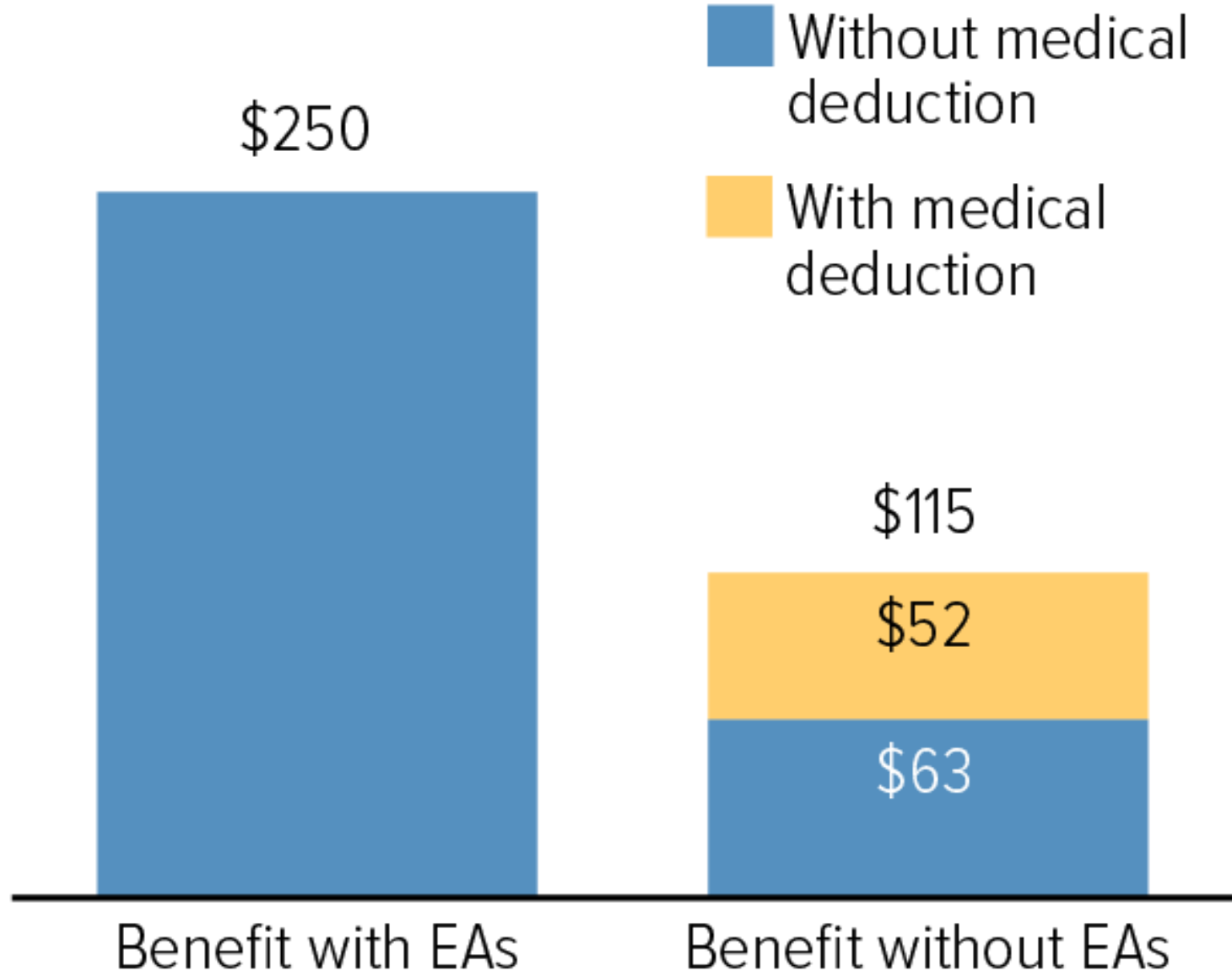
Medical Expense Deduction

- For people age 60 and over and people with disabilities.
- These household members can claim out of pocket medical expenses over \$35 per month and receive the standard medical deduction amount of \$120.
- A broad range of expenses may be claimed.
- All expenses being claimed must be documented.

Example 2: Medical Expense Deduction



Mr. Cobalt is 78 years old with a gross income of \$1,000 per month and \$175 in medical expenses.



Source: CBPP calculation based on fiscal year 2022 SNAP benefit parameters for elderly household of one with monthly income of \$1,000 and \$175 in medical expenses

Take-up of the SNAP Medical Deduction Varies

Rank	State	Percent Claiming	Average Medical Deduction in FY 2019	# of Elderly or Disabled Households	# of Elderly or Disabled Households Claiming Medical Deductions
	United States	12%	\$182	9,162,000	1,067,000
1	Virgin Islands	61%	\$122	3,600	2,200
15	Oregon	16%	\$193	175,000	27,500
25	Idaho	12%	\$166	34,500	4,100
27	California	12%	\$166	375,000	44,000
30	Washington	11%	\$161	242,800	26,400
44	Nevada	7%	\$131	80,700	5,700

Other Programs & Resources

- **WIC!**
- Supplemental Benefit Programs
 - Market Match
 - CalFresh Fruit & Vegetable EBT Pilot
 - WIC FMNP and Senior FMNP (Farmers' Market Vouchers)

State Legislation to Boost CalFresh Benefits

- SB 600 (Menjivar) – Boost CalFresh Minimum Benefit to \$50/mo
- AB 605 (Arambula) – CalFresh Fruit & Veggie Pilot Expansion
- Budget Request – CalFresh Safe Drinking Water Pilot Expansion
- SB 245 (Hurtado) / AB 311 (Santiago) “Food4All” – Expand food assistance access to those denied due to immigration status

Questions & Suggestions?

Jared Call

jared@nourishca.org

What does WIC have to do with the CF Cliff?

- Food! Current child WIC food package valued at \$75!
- SO Much more! (Diapers, too, when available!)
- Caring, empathetic staff; speak your language, have been in your shoes.



WIC WORKS WONDERS

WIC outcomes:

Lower rates of obesity

Healthier full term pregnancies

Health Equity

Children eating more F/V

Return on Investment

Nutrition Education last a lifetime

ALL WIC foods are healthy foods!

EAT LIKE WIC



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Connect families to WIC!

- **WIC serves**
 - Children under 5
 - Pregnant women
 - New moms
 - Caretakers/Grandparents/Foster parents can apply
 - MANY in this population are in danger of falling off the CalFresh cliff



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How many could there be?

- Over 33,000 ENPS (eligible not participating) live in LAC (2019 data)
 - And it's SO EASY to get them on!
 - Adjunctive eligibility:
 - CalFresh for citizens
 - MediCal for all immigrants as well



YOU Can Get Her Back to WIC

Why are they **NOT** already on WIC:

- Pre-pandemic VS Post-pandemic
- Once the child turned 1 many families stopped coming to WIC
- Thousands of 3-4 year olds may not know about the post-pandemic, modern WIC because they stopped WIC when their kids turned one...in 2020!!



The MODERN WIC

- The WIC card
- WIC waivers
- WIC App
- \$25 Cash Value Voucher for F/V
- Online education
- Class and BF support groups on Zoom



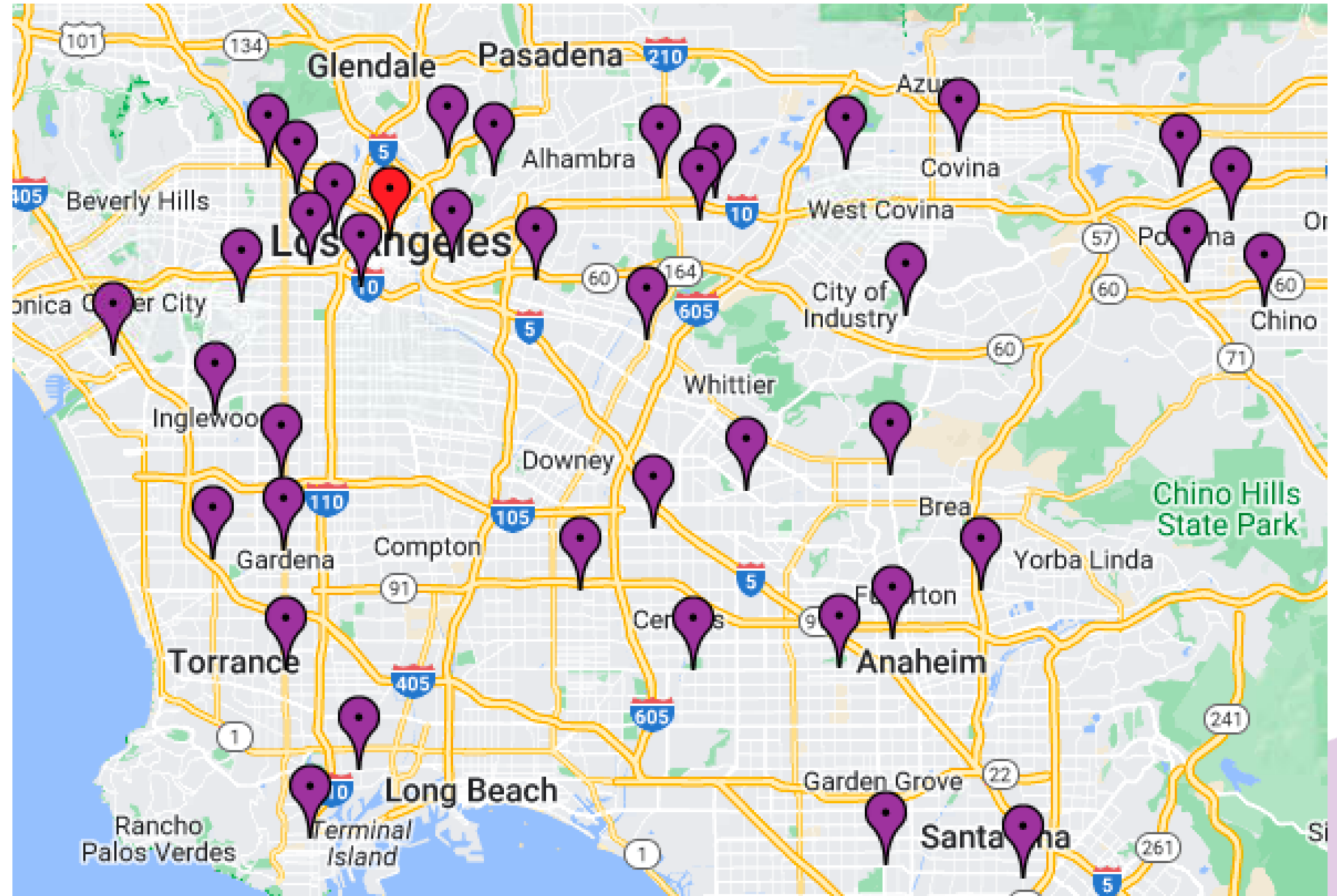
WIC + CalFresh = Better Together



- WIC + CalFresh: families CAN and SHOULD be on both programs
- Enrollment into WIC within 48 hours.
- Family can go shopping right after if they pick up the WIC card at a WIC site OR within a few days when the card arrives in the mail
- Current service model: on-site appointments AND remote services continue. And we have sites all over LAC!

Where is there a WIC site?

- All throughout the county!
- And we refer to other programs in LAC based on geography.
- Time for a POLL!



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Poll Question:

How many individuals have YOU referred to WIC in the last 3 weeks?

0

1-5

5-10

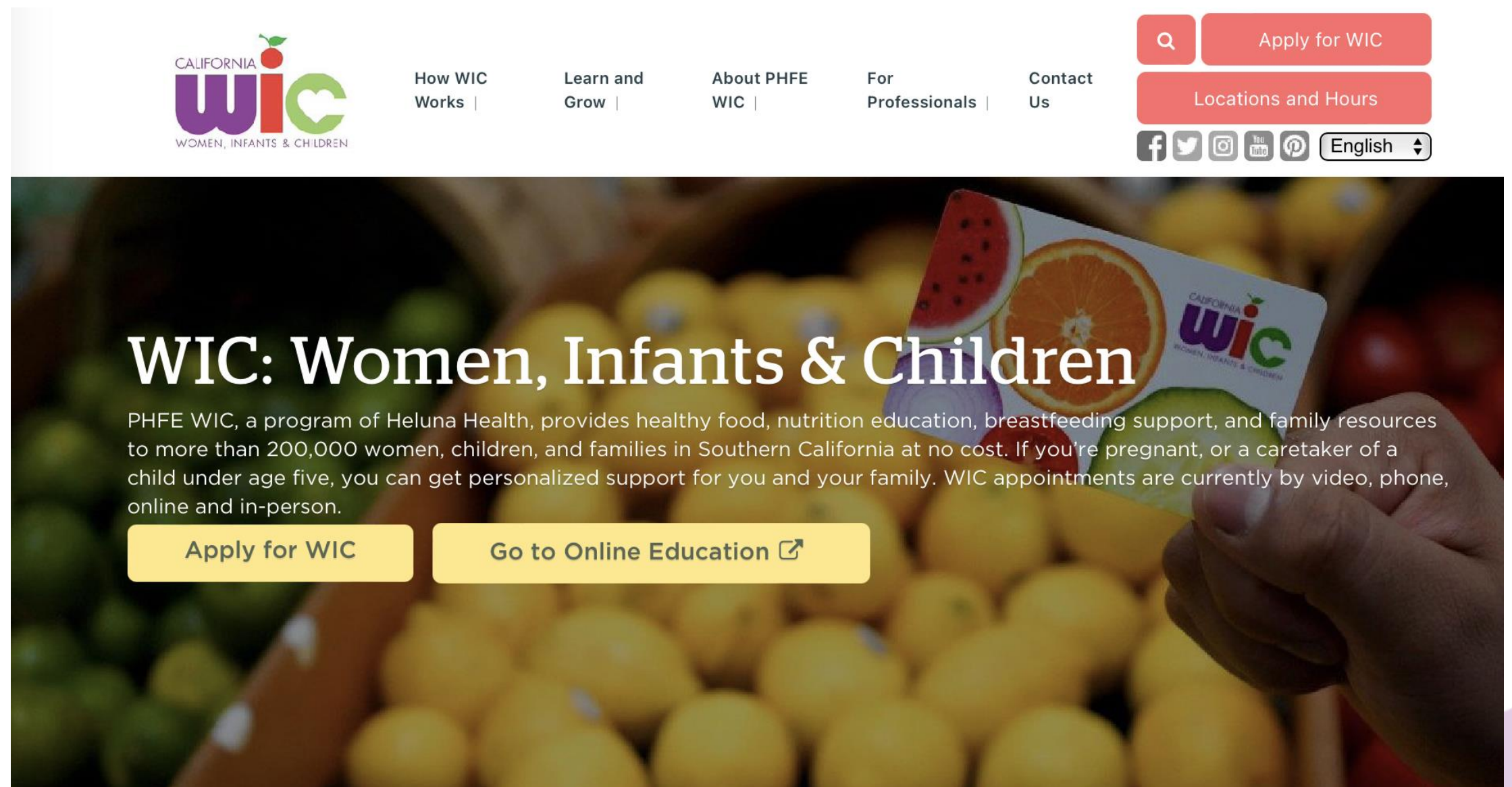
More than 10



Getting Started with Blanca



Blanca Vargas
Senior Manager of Operations
PHFE WIC, A Program of Heluna Health



www.phfewic.org

Need Another Reason?

Farmers Market starting mid-May \$30/family



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Call to Action: What can *(should)* YOU do?



- Connect EVERY family on Medi-Cal and/or CalFresh to WIC immediately
- Save the website: www.phfewic.org on your devices
- In your phone, add WIC's text number: **91997**
- MORE than a passive referral:
 - give an Rx to WIC (with consent),
 - a warm handoff,
 - an email to the WIC Outreach account Outreach@phfewic.org)
- Identify WHO in the office is the point person to ensure this happens!

Connect With Us!



www.phfewic.org



[\(888\) 942-2229](tel:(888)942-2229)



Outreach@phfewic.org



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In Summary:

- Connect EVERY family on Medi-Cal and/or CalFresh to WIC immediately
- Save the website: www.phfewic.org on your devices
- In your phone, add WIC's text number: **91997**
- Make it COUNT: it's a WARM handoff
- Follow up with all to ensure they ARE getting WIC and buying all their foods!
- Become an AVID ADVOCATE

Let's pledge to make a difference

It's up to EACH of US!

