

## ***ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER (EBT) and DIRECT DEPOSIT***

### **What is EBT?**

EBT stands for Electronic Benefit Transfer and is the required way for recipients of Food Stamps, CalWORKs, Refugee, and General Assistance to receive benefits. It does not change any eligibility rules. Instead of sending food stamps and checks in the mail, benefits will be put into a special EBT account for the recipient. No more stolen or lost checks or food stamps.

### **How do I access my food stamps and cash in the EBT account?**

You will be given a plastic EBT card called the Golden State Advantage Card. It looks like a credit card or a bank debit card. You will also have a personal identification number (PIN) that only you will know. You can get your cash benefits with your EBT card from ATMs (Automatic Teller Machines), stores or cash-backs with purchase from stores. You can use the EBT card at grocery stores to buy food and use the food stamp benefits credited to your EBT account.

### **What is Direct Deposit?**

Direct Deposit provides an additional method of benefit delivery. It does not change any eligibility rules. Direct Deposit is voluntary. Recipients of CalWORKs, Refugee, and General Assistance may choose to have their cash aid deposited directly into their personal checking or savings account rather than having cash benefits paid through EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer). Recipients will receive an Advise Notice by mail when a direct deposit is made to their account.

### **Can I have both EBT and Direct Deposit?**

If you receive a cash grant through the CalWORKs, Refugee, or General Assistance and you receive food stamps, you must receive the food stamp benefits through EBT. But you may have your cash grant direct deposited into your personal checking or savings account.

**If you have questions about EBT and Direct Deposit call your worker.**