

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



February 26, 2007

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE. 1-06-07

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP
COORDINATORS
ALL FOOD STAMP EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
 Federal Law or Regulation
Change
 Court Order
 Clarification Requested by
One or More Counties
 Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS WAIVER FOR
2007-2008

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 18926

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties of the process the Department will use to request waivers of the Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) work requirement. Last year Welfare and Institutions Code Section 18926 as added by Senate Bill (SB) 68 required the Department to annually seek a federal waiver of the ABAWD work requirement for all eligible counties unless a county's board of supervisors provides written notification that it wishes to decline participation in a waiver. On February 3, 2006 the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also offered states the option of a two-year ABAWD waiver under limited circumstances. A county and/or economic region can be approved for a two-year ABAWD waiver under the following criteria:

- The county has an unemployment rate greater than 10 percent for the two-year period immediately prior to the waiver request;
- Designation as a labor surplus area by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration for a minimum of two consecutive fiscal years (the year of the request and the prior year); or
- An unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for a 36-month period, ending no earlier than three months prior to the request.

Thirty-five California counties qualified for a two-year ABAWD waiver which began on May 1, 2006 and ends April 30, 2008. Last year, two of the 35 counties declined the waiver, and have been informed that a resolution from the board of supervisors is needed if they wish to opt out of the waiver this year. Those counties approved for

a two-year waiver will continue to receive the waiver through April 30, 2008, unless a county's board of supervisors opts out of the waiver. The counties are:

Alpine	Butte	Calaveras
Colusa	Del Norte	Fresno
Glenn	Humboldt	Imperial
Kern	Kings	Lake*
Lassen*	Madera	Mariposa
Mendocino	Merced	Modoc
Monterey	Nevada	Plumas
San Benito	San Joaquin	San Luis Obispo
Shasta	Sierra	Siskiyou
Stanislaus	Sutter	Tehama
Trinity	Tulare	Tuolumne
Yolo	Yuba	

* declined waiver in 2006

Additionally, Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco received a one-year ABAWD waiver, which began May 1, 2006 and ends April 30, 2007. The Department has determined that of these four counties only Santa Cruz is eligible for an extension of its ABAWD waiver, and there were no other additional counties that qualify for a waiver. The Department will directly notify the four counties with one-year ABAWD waivers of our findings and provide them with further direction.

It is anticipated that the Department's ABAWD waiver request will be submitted to FNS on or about, March 20, 2007. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Alicia Thomason, Program Analyst, at (916) 657-2630.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

RICHTON YEE, Chief
Food Stamp Branch