



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

February 2, 2016

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-11-16

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

SUBJECT: EXTENDED STATEWIDE WAIVER OF THE ABLE-BODIED ADULT
WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD) TIME LIMIT

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE 18926; 7 CFR 273.7 (f); FOOD
AND NUTRITION SERVICE POLICY MEMORANDUM DATED
FEBRUARY 3, 2006; [ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) 14-91 \(DATED
JANUARY 6, 2015\)](#)

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties that The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has been approved for an extension of its statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit. The waiver will continue in all counties from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017. California has been approved for the waiver based on an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period of September 2012 through August 2015. It has been longstanding federal policy that areas may qualify for a 24-month waiver based upon having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for a recent 36-month period. A request to extend and modify waiver number 2150019 was submitted to the Food and Nutrition Service on October 9, 2015 and federal approval was received on December 30, 2015.

Implementation Policies

Counties are reminded of the following ABAWD waiver implementation policies:

- ABAWD waiver counties must continue to report work registrants, ABAWDs, and Employment and Training (E&T) data on the “Non-Assistance CalFresh Work Registrants, Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD), and Employment and Training (E&T) Program Quarterly Statistical Report (STAT 47)” report. This updated report and accompanying instructions were transmitted via ACL 14-91. For purposes of completing the STAT 47, persons who do not meet one of the ABAWD exemptions at Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Sections 63-410.31 or .32 are still considered ABAWDs even while residing in a county with a waiver. Data for ABAWDs must be recorded in Section A, entry 2 and Section F, entry 29 of the report as appropriate.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

- ABAWD waivers do not affect CalFresh E&T participation requirements or program sanction rules for E&T mandatory placements. Currently, E&T is voluntary in all participating counties and CalFresh sanctions are not imposed for noncompliance with E&T requirements.
- ABAWD waiver counties must continue to apply sanction requirements at MPP Section 63-408 to CalFresh work registrants who voluntarily quit a job of 30 hours or more per week or which provides weekly earnings equal to or greater than the federal minimum wage times 30, or who reduce the weekly number of hours worked to less than 30. If a CalFresh recipient quits a job of less than 30 hours, no sanction shall be imposed.
- Those counties that participate in the waiver must inform their ABAWD population that they are not subject to the ABAWD time limit for those months they reside in the county so long as the waiver is in effect.

Procedure for Declining an ABAWD Waiver

The Federal Fiscal Year 2016-17 ABAWD waiver will continue through December 31, 2017 unless a county notifies CDSS via a letter from its County Board of Supervisors that it intends to pursue opting out of the ABAWD waiver. If any county declines to participate in the waiver, they must inform CDSS within two weeks of the issuance of this letter. A letter declining participation in the waiver should be sent to Robert Nevins of the CalFresh Branch using the contact information shown below:

Robert Nevins, Analyst
California Department of Social Services
CalFresh Branch
744 P Street, M.S. 8-9-32
Sacramento, CA 95814
E-mail: robert.nevins@dss.ca.gov
Fax: (916) 654-1295

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Robert Nevins at (916) 654-1408.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

KIM MCCOY WADE, Chief
CalFresh Branch