



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](http://www.cdss.ca.gov)



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

December 30, 2013

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 13-107

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS  
ALL CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES  
ALL QUALITY CONTROL COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE CALFRESH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM WITH THE PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 134

REFERENCE: SENATE BILL (SB) 134, CHAPTER 283, STATUTES OF 2013;  
WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 18926.5;  
WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 18926.6.

The purpose of this letter is to inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 134 and to explain the impact of this legislation on CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T) requirements. SB 134 amends Section 18926.5 and adds Section 18926.6 to the Welfare and Institutions Code. The changes identified in this All County Letter (ACL) are effective January 1, 2014.

The CalFresh E&T Program is California's employment and training program for non-assistance CalFresh applicants and recipients. Within the CalFresh work registrant population, certain persons may be temporarily excused or "deferred" from participation in E&T for reasons that include those listed in the Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Section 63-407.811. With the passage of SB 43 in 2012, individuals are also deferred from E&T if they are (1) under 18 years of age or 50 years or older, (2) living in a CalFresh household with a child under 18, or (3) living in a federally determined work surplus area. Individuals that are deferred from E&T may participate on a voluntary basis.

SB 134 adds to the existing E&T deferrals those work registrants who are veterans that have been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

Counties participating in the CalFresh E&T program shall apply the following policies to work registrants who are honorably discharged veterans:

1. Those who meet the criterion above shall be deferred from mandatory participation in the CalFresh E&T program;
2. These individuals shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in CalFresh E&T on a voluntary basis; and
3. Such persons shall be provided with a referral to the local County Veterans Service Offices (VSOs) as well as any local veterans assistance and job training agencies known to the county. An updated list of VSOs by county can be found at [www.cacvso.org](http://www.cacvso.org).

As with all voluntary CalFresh E&T participants, veterans deferred from E&T who choose to participate as volunteers are not subject to CalFresh sanctions for failure to comply with E&T requirements. However, such persons are not entitled to participant reimbursements until they resume participation. This legislation has no impact on sanction requirements for county administered General Assistance (GA) or General Relief (GR) programs. Those volunteers whose CalFresh E&T component also serves as a mandatory GA/GR activity may still receive sanction of their GA or GR benefit for failing or refusing to participate in E&T (depending on the county's sanction policy).

### **Verification of Honorable Discharge Status**

County case workers shall inquire into the military service history of clients within the CWD's E&T target population. The CWDs shall verify a claim of honorable discharge from the military by requiring the veteran to submit a completed DD 214 or other appropriate verification. The DD 214 is the current form used by the military to prove separation from active duty. It provides evidence of military service which may be necessary to obtain Veterans Assistance benefits, employment, retirement and membership in veterans organizations. A Statement of Service (SoS) may also be an acceptable form of verification.

If the veteran is unable to produce a DD 214 or SoS confirming honorable discharge, the CWD shall refer him/her to the local and /or state Veteran agencies such as the VSO, California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), and/or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for assistance in securing the document. The CWD shall inform the veteran that he/she will be temporarily deferred from CalFresh E&T participation when the CWD receives evidence that the DD 214 or SoS has been requested. Such evidence must be provided within five business days from the date the county refers the CalFresh

recipient to the local and/or state Veteran office for assistance acquiring the needed documentation.

Once the CWD receives the DD 214 or SoS confirming that the veteran was honorably discharged, the document should be placed in the case file and the veteran shall be permanently deferred from CalFresh E&T. The veteran shall then be referred to the County VSO and those local veterans assistance and job training agencies known to the CWD.

If the DD 214 or SoS states that the veteran was not honorably discharged or the veteran fails to provide the needed form within a 30 day period, the temporary deferral shall end. The veteran shall be subject to E&T participation requirements if not otherwise exempted or deferred.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your CalFresh county consultant or call the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

TODD R. BLAND  
Deputy Director  
Welfare to Work Division