

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



January 8, 2002

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-02-02

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: 15 PERCENT ABLE-BODIED ADULT WITHOUT DEPENDENTS
(ABAWD) EXEMPTION ALLOCATION FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR
(FFY) 2002 AND CRITERIA FOR USE OF THE EXEMPTION

REFERENCE: ACL 00-41

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

The purpose of this notice is to provide counties with revised average monthly figures for the 15 percent ABAWD food stamp work requirement exemptions for FFY 2002. To the maximum extent possible, counties are encouraged to utilize the 15 percent ABAWD exemption criteria identified in their FFY 2002 FSET plan.

As shown on Attachment I, California currently has 7,683 average monthly exemptions that can be used between January 1, 2002, and September 30, 2002, (i.e., a total annual allocation of 69,147 exemption months). Please note that California has the highest allocation of 15 percent ABAWD exemptions in the nation (i.e., 13 percent of the total exemptions) – see Attachment II. We strongly encourage counties to utilize these exemptions as much as possible. Maintaining food stamp eligibility for ABAWDs will help to ease potential financial strain on local food banks and other local charitable organizations.

As provided under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, states may exempt up to 15 percent of their nonexempt ABAWD population if individuals are at risk of losing their eligibility to food stamps due to not meeting the ABAWD work requirement.

The allotment of 15 percent ABAWD exemptions for each county is based on its share of the statewide non-assistance food stamp caseload for calendar year 2000. Attachment 1 displays the county-by-county allocation of average monthly ABAWD exemptions for FFY 2002. Each county has the flexibility to determine the most efficient and effective manner for use of its exemptions. The county can vary the number of exemptions utilized from month to month, as needed. For example, a county that receives an annual allocation of 1,200 exemption months for the federal fiscal year may choose to spread them out evenly over the 12-month period, reserve them for months in which high

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unemployment is expected, or a variation of the two methodologies to achieve maximum benefit for their ABAWD population.

Annual usage of the 15 percent ABAWD exemptions is measured on a statewide basis and reported on the STAT 46 (Food Stamp Employment and Training Program, Quarterly ABAWDs Statistical and Expenditure Report). Thus, under- or over-utilization of the exemptions by individual counties could potentially balance out statewide. Moreover, if the total number of exemptions used by the counties exceed the State's annual allocation, the only consequence would be that the excess usage is offset against the State's exemption allocation in the next federal fiscal year. There is no financial penalty to the State or the counties for under- or over-utilizing the 15 percent exemption.

Food Stamp Sanctions and the 15 Percent Exemption

Regulations at MPP Sections 63-410.53 and 63-407.53 specify that when an individual receives a food stamp sanction for voluntarily quitting a job or failing to comply with an FSET assignment, the individual may not reestablish eligibility until the sanction is cured, or he qualifies for one of the food stamp work registration exemptions at MPP Section 63-407.21. This means that the 15 percent exemption cannot be granted until the sanction is cured.

If you have any questions regarding the exemption allocations described in this notice, please contact Tony Pyara by telephone at (916) 657-1408 or by e-mail at tony.pyara@dss.ca.gov.

For questions regarding the completion of the STAT 46 (Food Stamp and Training Program Quarterly ABAWDs Statistical and Expenditure Report), please call Juliet Mende at (916) 654-1563.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By
Charr Lee Metsker on 12/08/02***

CHARR LEE METSKER, Chief
Employment and Eligibility Branch

Attachments

c: CWDA
CSAC

**FFY 2002 ALLOCATION OF 15% EXEMPTIONS FOR
ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS**

California ABAWD Exemption Provided by USDA (Admin Notice 02-10 Nov. 1, 2001)
FY 00/01 Caseload from DFA296 Intake and Federal Continuing

COUNTIES	NAFS Caseload FY 00/01	% to Total	Additional 15% ABAWD Exemptions 7,683
ALAMEDA	119,074	0.027311	210
ALPINE	234	0.000054	1
AMADOR	3,579	0.000821	6
BUTTE	53,631	0.012301	95
CALAVERAS	7,117	0.001632	13
COLUSA	3,984	0.000914	7
CONTRA COSTA	51,245	0.011754	90
DEL NORTE	12,885	0.002955	23
EL DORADO	14,909	0.003420	26
FRESNO	192,115	0.044064	339
GLENN	5,949	0.001364	10
HUMBOLDT	5,858	0.001344	10
IMPERIAL	57,194	0.013118	101
INYO	4,355	0.000999	8
KERN	158,201	0.036285	279
KINGS	36,713	0.008421	65
LAKE	18,361	0.004211	32
LASSEN	5,880	0.001349	10
LOS ANGELES	1,707,020	0.391525	3,009
MADERA	43,776	0.010041	77
MARIN	15,468	0.003548	27
MARIPOSA	3,547	0.000814	6
MENDOCINO	21,842	0.005010	38
MERCED	38,076	0.008733	67
MODOC	2,898	0.000665	5
MONO	1,533	0.000352	3
MONTEREY	56,438	0.012945	99
NAPA	9,436	0.002164	17
NEVADA	8,034	0.001843	14
ORANGE	143,656	0.032949	253
PLACER	12,853	0.002948	23
PLUMAS	2,966	0.000680	5
RIVERSIDE	121,400	0.027844	214
SACRAMENTO	179,734	0.041224	317
SAN BENITO	6,487	0.001488	11
SAN BERNARDINO	251,272	0.057632	443
SAN DIEGO	162,717	0.037321	287
SAN FRANCISCO	134,737	0.030903	237
SAN JOAQUIN	97,079	0.022266	171
SAN LUIS OBISPO	20,142	0.004620	35
SAN MATEO	14,704	0.003373	26
SANTA BARBARA	36,821	0.008445	65
SANTA CLARA	80,445	0.018451	142
SANTA CRUZ	20,393	0.004677	36
SHASTA	46,602	0.010689	82
SIERRA	500	0.000115	1
SISKIYOU	12,440	0.002853	22
SOLANO	24,478	0.005614	43
SONOMA	26,239	0.006018	46
STANISLAUS	59,810	0.013718	105
SUTTER	16,609	0.003809	29
TEHAMA	17,427	0.003997	31
TRINITY	4,147	0.000951	7
TULARE	93,711	0.021494	165
TUOLUMNE	9,593	0.002200	17
VENTURA	62,449	0.014323	110
YOLO	18,444	0.004230	33
YUBA	22,723	0.005212	40
TOTAL	4,359,930	1.000000	7,683