

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



April 23, 2008

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-29-08

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

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

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2008 15 PERCENT EXEMPTION ALLOCATIONS FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDs)

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties with their annual ABAWD 15 percent exemption allocation for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008. ABAWDs can receive food stamps for only three months in a 36-month time period unless they work at least 20 hours a week or participate in a qualifying work or training program. Counties may temporarily exempt ABAWDs who are at risk of losing food stamp eligibility due to the three-month limit by granting the 15 percent exemption. The 15 percent exemption provides counties with the ability to temporarily excuse from the ABAWD work requirement those individuals who, due to circumstances, are unable to satisfy the ABAWD work requirement.

On March 4, 2008, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) issued the FFY 2008 15 percent exemption allocations for states via Administrative Notice (AN) 08-12. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has allocated the exemptions among counties based on non-assistance caseload size and is effective October 1, 2007. The annual authorized number of case-month exemptions for California during FFY 2008 is 877,955. When divided by 12, this results in a monthly average of 73,163 15 percent exemption case-months for use in assisting at-risk ABAWDs. The attachment displays the FFY 2008 total 15 percent exemption case-months allocated to each county, except as noted below.

Counties with an ABAWD waiver covering the entire county for all of FFY 2008 are not allocated 15 percent exemptions since ABAWDs in these counties are not subject to the work requirement. There are a total of thirty-six counties where the ABAWD work requirement is waived for the entire county for all of FFY 2008 and the 15 percent exemptions would not be used:

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, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba.

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Each county has discretion in setting criteria to determine those ABAWDs who will be granted the 15 percent exemption and the number of months ABAWDs will be exempted. Counties should manage their use of the 15 percent exemption so that it is granted to those ABAWDs most in need. The length of time each ABAWD is granted the exemption impacts the number of ABAWDs that can be exempted. Fewer ABAWDs can be exempted if lengthier exemptions are granted.

As a reminder, CDSS Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) sections 63-407.53 and 63-408.61 specify that when an individual receives a food stamp disqualification for failing to comply with a Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) assignment, voluntarily quitting a job, or reducing hours worked to less than 30 per week, that individual may not re-establish eligibility until the disqualification ends or the individual qualifies for one of the food stamp work registration exemptions listed at MPP Section 63-407.21. A 15 percent ABAWD exemption cannot be granted during a food stamp sanction.

County usage of the ABAWD 15 percent exemption is reported in Part A, line 3 (ABAWDs exempt under the 15 percent criteria) of the Food Stamp Program Work Registrant, ABAWDs, and FSET Program Caseload Report form (STAT 47). It is important that counties report their use of the 15 percent exemption. An ABAWD must be reported as having received the 15 percent exemption for each month it is granted during the quarter. Counties with an ABAWD waiver must not use or report 15 percent exemptions on the STAT 47 (line 3) and should enter a zero for all months the waiver is in effect. For purposes of tracking and coding the ABAWD 36-month calendar and completing the STAT 47 form (line 2- ABAWDs at the beginning of the month) ABAWDs receiving the 15 percent exemption or in a waiver county are still counted/reported as ABAWDs, even though they are not subject to the work requirement.

If you have questions or require assistance with reporting requirements or completing the STAT 47, please contact Mark Sticklin at (916) 654-1273 or by e-mail at [mark.sticklin@dss.ca.gov](mailto:mark.sticklin@dss.ca.gov). The STAT 47 automated form and instructions can be found at the Data Systems and Survey Design Bureau Research and Data Reports web site <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/dssdb/>. If you have any policy or procedural questions regarding the exemption allocations described in this notice, please contact Robert Nevins at (916) 654-1408 or by e-mail at [robert.nevins@dss.ca.gov](mailto:robert.nevins@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

RIGHTON YEE, Chief  
Food Stamp Branch

Attachment

County	Intake & Continuing Avg. Monthly Caseload (DFA 296) CALENDAR YEAR 2007	% to Total	FFY 2008 Total ABAWD Exemption Months Per County
ALAMEDA	26,941	5.76%	50,601
ALPINE			
AMADOR	514	0.11%	966
BUTTE			
CALAVERAS			
COLUSA			
CONTRA COSTA	10,310	2.21%	19,364
DEL NORTE			
EL DORADO	1,481	0.32%	2,781
FRESNO			
GLENN			
HUMBOLDT			
IMPERIAL			
INYO	445	0.10%	835
KERN			
KINGS			
LAKE			
LASSEN			
LOS ANGELES	212,831	45.53%	399,740
MADERA			
MARIN	2,192	0.47%	4,117
MARIPOSA			
MENDOCINO			
MERCED			
MODOC			
MONO	152	0.03%	285
MONTEREY			
NAPA	1,080	0.23%	2,028
NEVADA			
ORANGE	23,813	5.09%	44,725
PLACER	2,610	0.56%	4,901
PLUMAS			
RIVERSIDE	23,287	4.98%	43,737
SACRAMENTO	32,457	6.94%	60,961
SAN BENITO			
SAN BERNARDINO	38,015	8.13%	71,399
SAN DIEGO	25,977	5.56%	48,791
SAN FRANCISCO	17,240	3.69%	32,380
SAN JOAQUIN			
SAN LUIS OBISPO			
SAN MATEO	2,788	0.60%	5,236
SANTA BARBARA	4,859	1.04%	9,126
SANTA CLARA	18,819	4.03%	35,347
SANTA CRUZ			
SHASTA			
SIERRA			
SISKIYOU			
SOLANO	6,205	1.33%	11,654
SONOMA	5,468	1.17%	10,270
STANISLAUS			
SUTTER			
TEHAMA			
TRINITY			
TULARE			
TUOLUMNE			
VENTURA	9,963	2.13%	18,712
YOLO			
YUBA			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>467,445</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>877,955</b>