

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



April 16, 1997

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 97-23

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP  
COORDINATORS

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

SUBJECT: WAIVER OF THE FOOD STAMP WORK REQUIREMENT FOR ABLE-BODIED  
ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDS)

REFERENCE: ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 97-16

This is to inform you that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Consumer Service, has provided authority to waive the Food Stamp ABAWD work requirement in 42 entire counties and in parts of 11 other counties. The waiver is effective retroactively to December 1, 1996. The waiver granted by USDA does not cover five counties. (See Attachment I for the breakdown of counties and Attachment II for the specific areas in the partially-waived counties).

CDSS sought a statewide waiver of the Food Stamp ABAWD work provisions in order to provide counties additional time to inform the impacted population and to develop activities which would enable individuals to meet the work requirements. However, USDA granted waiver authority for counties and parts of counties that either had an unemployment rate over 10 percent or were deemed to be a Labor Surplus Area (an area that had an average unemployment rate for the most recent 24-month period which was 20 percent higher than the national average).

Based on USDA's action, each county with waiver authority should determine whether it is now prepared to implement the Food Stamp ABAWD work provisions or if it will accept the waiver. Therefore, depending on the availability of waiver authority and the county's choice regarding implementation, action should be taken as indicated on Attachment III.

If a waiver has been authorized in your county, the County Welfare Director should notify CDSS in writing by May 9, 1997 as to whether you choose to implement the waiver. If you have any questions, please contact your Employment Operations analyst at (916) 657-3403. Mail your response to:

California Department of Social Services  
Employment Operations Section  
744 P Street  
Mail-Station 6-136  
Sacramento, California, 95814

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Wagstaff", with a stylized flourish at the end.

BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare Programs Division

Attachments