



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

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

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

December 22, 2017

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 17-101

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

SUBJECT: CALFRESH MAXIMUM CERTIFICATION PERIODS

REFERENCES: [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 1603 \(CHAPTER 25, STATUTES OF 2016\)](#);
[WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE \(WIC\) SECTION 18910.1](#);
[CFR §273.12](#); [MPP 63-504](#);

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

The purpose of this letter is to inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) of current state law which requires CalFresh households to be assigned the maximum certification period allowable for the household type under federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program regulations.

Background

The AB 1603, which passed in 2016, amended Section 18910.1 of the WIC to read:

“All CalFresh households shall be assigned certification periods that are the maximum number of months allowable under federal law for the household type unless a county is complying with subdivision (b) of Section 18910 or, on a case-by-case basis only, the household’s individual circumstances require a shorter certification period.”

Implementation

The CWD shall certify CalFresh households for the maximum certification period allowable. When determining the maximum certification period, CWDs must consider the household type to determine the correct certification period.

Generally, most CalFresh households are assigned a 12-month certification period. Households in which all adult members are elderly or disabled will continue to be certified for a period of 24 months. Based on their source of income (earned or unearned), these households will be required to submit a SAR 7 at different intervals.

Under the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) which is effective October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2021, CalFresh households with only elderly and/or disabled members *with no earned income*, will be assigned a 36-month certification period.

Examples of maximum certification periods include:

- 12 months for most CalFresh households;
- 24 months for households with only elderly and/or disabled members; and
- 36 months for ESAP households with only elderly and/or disabled member and no earned income beginning October 1, 2017.

Additionally, CWDs must consider the household's individual circumstances which may require a shorter certification period. The determination to assign a certification period shorter than 12 months should be made on a case-by-case basis.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the CalFresh Policy Section at (916) 651-8047.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division