



CDSS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

January 25, 2018

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 18-11

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
ALL CONSORTIA REPRESENTATIVES

REASON FOR THIS
TRANSMITTAL

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

SUBJECT: CALFRESH IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 563: CALFRESH
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

REFERENCE: [ASSEMBLY BILL \(AB\) 563 \(CHAPTER 343, STATUTES OF 2017\);](#)
[TITLE 7 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS \(CFR\)](#)
[SECTIONS 273.7 and 273.24; WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS](#)
[CODES \(WIC\) SECTION 18926.5](#)

The purpose of this ACL is to disseminate guidance to County Welfare Departments (CWDs) regarding the implementation of AB 563 (Chapter 343, Statutes of 2017), which defers individuals considered able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) from mandatory placement in the CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T) Program, among other changes. The provisions of the bill are effective January 1, 2018. Additionally, AB 563 requires that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) adopt corresponding regulations by January 1, 2019.

Allowable E&T Components

Current CalFresh regulations provide that a CWD participating in CalFresh E&T shall demonstrate in its annual CalFresh E&T plan how it is effectively using CalFresh E&T funds for each of the components the CWD offers, which may include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- Self-initiated workfare
- Work experience or training
- Education
- Job search

Assembly Bill 563 has codified that the following CalFresh E&T components may also be offered:

- Job search training
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) activities
- Self-employment training
- Job retention
- Subsidized employment

*Please note that CWDs are not currently allowed to offer subsidized employment as a component of CalFresh E&T. The addition of subsidized employment as an allowable E&T component is contingent upon federal approval of a waiver that would allow federal E&T funds to be used for this purpose. The California Department of Social Services is required to submit this waiver request under the provisions of SB 282 (Chapter 355, Statutes of 2017).

Current Law Mandatory E&T Placement

For CWDs that offer CalFresh E&T, existing law requires an individual to be deferred from mandatory placement in CalFresh E&T if they satisfy certain criteria. Currently, deferral criteria include any of the criteria in Sections 273.7 and 273.24 of Title 7 of the CFR and individuals who are:

- Residing in a federally determined work surplus area;
- Veterans who have been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces; or
- Victims of domestic violence.

ABAWDs Deferred from Mandatory E&T Placement

Under AB 563, deferral criteria are expanded to include individuals who are subject to the ABAWD time limit. ABAWDs subject to the time limit shall be deferred from mandatory placement in CalFresh E&T. This includes mandatory placement in workfare, job search training, and job retention, among other CalFresh E&T components that may be offered. Expanded deferral criteria are effective January 1, 2018.

A CWD that elects to participate in the CalFresh E&T program shall continue to screen CalFresh work registrants to determine whether they will participate in, or be deferred from, a mandatory placement in CalFresh E&T. If deferred, a CalFresh work registrant may request to enroll in CalFresh E&T as a voluntary participant. An individual shall be deferred from a mandatory placement in CalFresh E&T if they satisfy any of the deferral criteria described above, including if they are an individual considered to be an ABAWD subject to the time limit.

Please note that at the time of the publication of this letter, all CalFresh E&T Programs offered by CWDs across the state are voluntary.

If you have any questions regarding this ACL, please contact your CalFresh County Consultant or the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 651-8047.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division