

February 14, 2025

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 25-14

The purpose of this All County Letter is to inform County Welfare Departments that the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service has approved a two-year, statewide, waiver of the Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents time limit requirement under [Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations Section 273.24](#). The waiver is effective February 1, 2025, through January 31, 2027. A copy of the approved waiver is attached to this letter.



JENNIFER TROIA
DIRECTOR

CALIFORNIA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

February 14, 2025

ALL COUNTY LETTER NO. 25-14

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

SUBJECT: CALFRESH TWO-YEAR STATEWIDE ABLE-BODIED ADULTS
WITHOUT DEPENDENTS TIME LIMIT WAIVER

REFERENCE: [TITLE 7 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS \(CFR\) 273.24](#);
[ALL COUNTY LETTER \(ACL\) NO. 24-76](#); [ACL NO. 24-42](#);
[ACL NO. 19-93](#); [ACL NO. 22-74](#)

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to inform County Welfare Departments (CWDs) that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has approved a two-year statewide waiver of the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) time limit requirement under [Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) Section 273.24](#).

The two-year statewide ABAWD waiver is effective February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2027. This waiver was approved based on having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average based on the unemployment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the 36-month period of December 2021 to November 2024. This new two-year ABAWD waiver will replace California's current statewide ABAWD waiver transmitted via [ACL No. 24-76](#). A copy of the approved two-year waiver is attached to this letter.

CALIFORNIA WAIVER IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

Regardless of waiver status, counties must remain ready to transition off the waiver when it expires and implement the time limit. As a reminder, all counties must continue to:

- Identify ABAWDs, screen for exemptions, and inform clients of ABAWD rules.
- Provide the CalFresh Notice of Work Rules (CF 886) along with a comprehensive oral explanation of each applicable work rule to all household members subject to the CalFresh work rules, referencing the script provided in [ACL No. 24-42](#).
- Track and report work registrant, ABAWD, and Employment and Training (E&T) data on the CalFresh Work Registrants, Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents, and Employment and Training Program Quarterly Statistical (STAT 47) report.

For more information on county responsibilities pertaining to ABAWDs, see [ACL No. 19-93](#) and [ACL No. 22-74](#).

If you have questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the CalFresh Policy Bureau at CalFreshPolicy@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By

ALEXIS FERNÁNDEZ GARCIA
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division

Attachment



Food and Nutrition Service

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

January 15, 2025

Alexis Fernández García
Deputy Director
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division
Department of Social Services
744 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

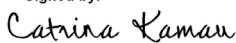
RE: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – California Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Initial – Approval

Dear Deputy Director Garcia:

This is in response to the California Department of Social Services' January 13, 2025, request to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. This approval, effective February 1, 2025, through January 31, 2027, replaces California's current Statewide ABAWD waiver, approved for November 1, 2024, through October 31, 2025.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also reminds the State agency that it must measure the 3-year period and track ABAWDs on a continuous basis, even in areas under a waiver. The State agency must continue tracking so that the State agency will be ready to transition off the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit. Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Catrina L. Kamau
Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Enclosure

Enclosure

**ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD)
WAIVER RESPONSE**

- 1. Request Type:** Initial
- 2. Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- 3. Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
- 4. State:** California
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Western
- 6. Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if the individual received program benefits for more than 3 months during any 3-year period in which the individual was subject to but did not comply with the ABAWD work requirement. Section 6(o) and 7 CFR 273.24 also provide that, upon the request of the State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the 3-month ABAWD time limit for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
- 7. Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency requested to replace its approved 12-month Statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit that expires on October 31, 2025 (Waiver Information Management System Case #8730), with a Statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit from February 1, 2025, to January 31, 2027.

The State agency supported its request based upon the State having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the 36-month period of December 2021 through November 2024. During this period, the national average unemployment rate was 4.5 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 4.8 percent. The average unemployment rate for the requested area was 4.8 percent or greater during the 36-month period (Table 1).

Table 1: State (Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data, December 2021 – November 2024)

State	Unemployment Rate
California	4.8%

Data extracted from <http://www.bls.gov> on January 14, 2025.

- 8. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 9. Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 10. Implementation Date:** February 1, 2025
- 11. Expiration Date:** January 31, 2027
- 12. Information Required to Submit a Modification, Extension, or New Waiver:** To receive a modification, extension, or submit a new waiver to replace the current waiver, the State agency must provide FNS with a formal request supported by data or other information as described in 7 CFR 273.24(f). Any request based upon unemployment rates must include data spreadsheets and supporting documentation.
- 13. State Agency Contact Information:**
Name: Louise Thao
Phone: 916-809-5922
Email: Louise.Thao@dss.ca.gov
- 14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**
Name: Kathryn Mueller
Phone: 415-645-1930
Email: Kathryn.Mueller@usda.gov