

November 2, 2020

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER**

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter is to provide County Welfare Departments with guidance to implement the provisions of the state option under HR 8337 the Continuing Appropriations Act to suspend federal Quality Control reviews of active and negative cases for the sample months of June 2020 through September 2021. This option is effective upon release of this letter and applies to all federal sample months through the end of federal fiscal year 2021.



**KIM JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR

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

November 2, 2020

**ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER**

**TO:** ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

**FROM:** ALEXIS FERNÁNDEZ, CHIEF  
CALFRESH AND NUTRITION BRANCH  
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT DIVISION

**SUBJECT:** CALFRESH TEMPORARY WAIVER IN RESPONSE TO  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019: SUSPENSION OF FEDERAL  
QUALITY CONTROL CASE REVIEWS

**REFERENCE:** [H.R. 8337 CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021](#)

The purpose of this All County Welfare Directors Letter (ACWDL) is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with guidance to implement the provisions of the state option under HR 8337 the Continuing Appropriations Act to suspend all federal quality control (QC) case reviews. The suspension of the active and negative federal case reviews applies to the sample months June 2020 through September 2021. This option is effective upon release of this letter and applies to all federal sample months through the end of federal fiscal year 2021.

California has experienced a significant increase in the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). As the number of COVID-19 cases in California continues to increase, extensive public health warnings have been issued statewide to reduce exposure, including orders to implement social distancing when conducting essential business. As a result, the state has implemented numerous CalFresh eligibility waivers granted by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to address increased application volume and rapid caseload growth.

In order to continue to protect applicants and recipients, and support CWDs, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is providing guidance to all Performance Measuring Counties (PMC) to suspend the requirement to review federal active and negative cases. This suspension provides PMCs the flexibility needed to

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effectively operate under CalFresh eligibility waivers that have been granted by FNS and which have made normal QC procedures challenging to apply. Effective upon release of this letter, the PMC QC reviewers must drop active and negative federal case reviews as 'Not Subject to Review' for the sample months of June 2020 through September 2021. At this time, federal case reviews are anticipated to resume for the sample month of October 2021.

Households that were previously notified of their case review for the months of June, July or August 2020 must receive an informing notice from the PMC QC reviewer informing them that the review and their participation in the review is no longer required. The CDSS QC Section will provide a template informing notice.

The FNS has notified CDSS that error rates for FFY 2020 and FFY 2021 may still be established for each of the states, regardless of the option to suspend all federal QC reviews. As such, until CDSS receives further guidance from FNS, no state guidance related to state QC case reviews nor error rate impact can be provided. Once CDSS receives guidance from FNS, it will be disseminated to the counties accordingly and next steps will be articulated.

If you have questions or need additional guidance regarding the information in this letter, contact the CalFresh QC Section at [CFUReviews@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CFUReviews@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By***

ALEXIS FERNÁNDEZ, Chief  
CalFresh and Nutrition Branch  
Family Engagement and Empowerment Division