



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

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

744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

September 17, 2015

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 15-70

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

SUBJECT: CALFRESH STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

REFERENCE: MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (MPP),
DIVISION 63, SECTION 63-406.1 AND 406.2; ASSEMBLY
BILL (AB) 1930, (Chapter 729, Statutes of 2014); I-45-11
and I-45-11E

The purpose of this All County Letter (ACL) is to provide County Welfare Departments (CWDs) with implementation instructions regarding changes to student eligibility rules resulting from AB 1930 being chaptered into law on September 28, 2014.

BACKGROUND

AB 1930 mandated that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), in consultation with representatives of the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, offices of the Chancellor of the California State University, University of California Chancellors' offices, the California Workforce Investment Board, county human services agencies, and advocates for students and clients, establish a protocol to identify and verify all potential exemptions to the eligibility rule described in Section 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and to identify and verify participation in educational programs, including, but not limited to, self-initiated placements, that would exempt a student from the eligibility rule described in Section 273.5(a) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. To the extent possible, this consultation shall take place through existing workgroups convened by the department.

**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 law requires implementation no later than October 1, 2015. As required, CDSS has been participating in a workgroup consisting of the entities referenced above. The workgroup will continue meeting until all educational programs that qualify as exemptions to the student eligibility rules are identified. In addition, CDSS and the workgroup participants are developing the optimal process for keeping CWDs informed of the specific qualifying programs.

MPP 63-406.1 states that: "Any person who is age 18 through 49; physically and mentally fit for employment; and enrolled at least half-time, as defined by the institution, in an institution of higher education (as defined in 63-406.111(a), shall be ineligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program unless that person complies with the eligibility requirements as specified in Section 63-406.2." This ACL transmits information regarding additional educational programs that qualify a student as potential eligible for CalFresh, assuming that all other conditions of eligibility are satisfied. As the workgroup identifies other educational programs, additional ACLs will be transmitted.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORUNITY ACT

On July 22, 2014, President Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) reauthorizing and amending the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. The WIA superseded the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), and offered a comprehensive range of workforce development activities through statewide and local organizations. The purpose of these activities is to promote an increase in the employment, job retention, earnings, and occupational skills improvement by participants. MPP 63-406.216(a) identifies JTPA as one of the allowable exemptions from the student rules. Therefore, a student enrolled in a WIOA activity shall be considered as eligible for CalFresh if all other conditions of eligibility are satisfied.

EXTENDED OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) assists eligible low-income and educationally disadvantaged students to achieve academic success by offering support services to enhance persistence, retention, graduation and transfer goals. Supportive services provided by EOPS include but are not limited to academic, career and personal counseling, basic skills instruction, tutoring, textbooks, meal tickets, transportation assistance and grants.

Enrollment in EOPS qualifies an otherwise CalFresh-eligible student for the CalFresh exemption as stated in MPP 63-406.216.

Students who provide proof of enrollment in either WIOA, as discussed above, or EOPS shall be eligible for CalFresh if they meet all other conditions of CalFresh eligibility.

PROOF OF ENROLLMENT

CDSS and the workgroup are in the process of developing a form that CWDs may use to verify enrollment in WIOA or EOPS. Until such time that the form has been transmitted, CWDs should adhere to the verification requirements as described in All County Information Notice I-45-11, I-45-11E and MPP 63-300.5.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your CalFresh county consultant or call the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division