



CDSS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

January 26, 2016

ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS LETTER

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

FROM: TODD R. BLAND
Deputy Director
Welfare-to-Work Division

SUBJECT: SOLICITATION OF COUNTY INTEREST IN OPERATING A CALFRESH
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM IN FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR
2017 – SUBMIT INTEREST FORM BY FEBRUARY 9, 2016

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is beginning the process for preparing the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T) State Plan. The final state plan must be submitted to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) by August 15, 2016. The E&T plan process is multi-faceted and takes several months to complete.

The first steps in this process consist of identifying those counties interested in offering an E&T program and updating county contact information. Please complete and submit the attached interest form identifying whether or not your county would like to participate in the FFY 2017 E&T program. The form must be submitted no later than February 9 2016. Counties that fail to submit the form by February 9, 2016 may jeopardize their eligibility for E&T funds.

These are particularly promising times for CalFresh E&T in California. The FNS has been and will continue to provide valuable support in helping counties develop innovative, cost-effective E&T models that have proven to be successful in other states. Both CDSS and FNS are ready to assist counties in exploring and designing effective E&T programs that both increase employability and improve self-sufficiency. These programs include third party match programs which can greatly reduce county workloads while offering valuable services to CalFresh recipients at little or no cost to counties. Also, those counties with existing General Assistance Programs can use these programs to serve CalFresh recipients and draw down federal funds that will significantly reduce administrative costs.

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

Fresno County continues to operate a successful third party match program for families and their county has also been chosen to participate in the expanded E&T pilot implemented under the Agricultural Act of 2014. San Joaquin County is working with the Community Partnerships for Families in San Joaquin (CPFSJ) to adopt an E&T model similar to that operated by Fresno County. The Fresh Success pilot will launch in at least one county in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 and additional counties are considering participation in FFY 2017. Fresh Success will provide a variety of E&T services to students attending community colleges.

California has been chosen as one of ten states to participate in the SNAP To Skills program administered by the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI) in cooperation with FNS. The SJI will provide selected counties with multi-faceted technical assistance in the design and development of better and stronger job-driven E&T programs. This will include working with counties to explore and implement models of collaboration with colleges and community-based organizations.

Various tools and resources will be developed to help interested counties implement E&T and assist existing E&T counties who choose to update and/or expand their programs. Again, these are promising times for CalFresh E&T and CDSS urges counties to participate in this program.

If you have any questions, please contact Robert Nevins or Bill Belon via telephone or e-mail at:

Robert Nevins
Telephone (916) 654-1408
robert.nevins@dss.ca.gov

Bill Belon
Telephone (916) 654-1905
william.belon@dss.ca.gov

Attachment

PLEASE COMPLETE AND FAX OR SEND AS AN E-MAIL ATTACHMENT BY
FEBRUARY 9, 2016, TO:

Bill Belon, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
CalFresh Policy Bureau
CalFresh Branch
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street, MS 8-9-32
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: (916) 654-1905
Fax: (916) 654-1295
E-mail: william.belon@dss.ca.gov

Participation in E&T for FFY 2017:

_____ Yes, the county is interested in participating in E&T in FFY 2017.

_____ No, the county is not interested in participating in E&T in FFY 2017.

County Name

County Representative's Printed Name and Title

County Representative's Signature

Date

Phone Number and E-mail address of County Representative