

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



July 7, 2003

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-38-03

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

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

SUBJECT: REVISED 15 PERCENT ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD) EXEMPTION ALLOCATION FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2003 AND CRITERIA FOR USE OF THE EXEMPTION

REFERENCE: ACL 00-41, ACIN I-05-03

The purpose of this notice is to provide counties with additional average monthly figures for the 15 percent ABAWD food stamp work requirement exemptions for FFY 2003. The federal Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) based this revised allocation on the accumulative roll-over of 15 percent exemptions for California through 2002. As provided under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, states may exempt up to 15 percent of their nonexempt ABAWD population if individuals are at risk of losing their eligibility to food stamps due to not meeting the ABAWD work requirement. To the maximum extent possible, counties are encouraged to utilize the 15 percent exemptions available for their ABAWD population. Maintaining food stamp eligibility for ABAWDs will help to ease potential financial strain on local food banks and other local charitable organizations.

As stated in ACIN I-05-03, dated January 28, 2003, California's initial FFY 2003 allocation of 15 percent ABAWD exemptions was 7,635, averaged monthly, between January 1, 2003 and September 30, 2003 (i.e., annual allocation of 68,715 exemption months). As explained in Attachment I, FNS has now adjusted the FFY 2003 allocation to include the FFY 2002 carryover. California's adjusted share is 48,016 monthly (i.e., annual allocation of 576,188 exemption months). Therefore, the number of remaining exemptions that California has left to utilize monthly is 40,381 (i.e., 507,473 annually). The remaining exemptions represent the adjusted allocation minus the initial allocation.

The allotment of 15 percent ABAWD exemptions for each county is based on its share of the statewide non-assistance food stamp caseload for calendar year 2001. Attachment II displays the remaining county-by-county allocation of average monthly ABAWD exemptions for FFY 2003. Each county has the flexibility to determine the most efficient and effective manner for use of its exemptions. The county can vary the number of

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exemptions utilized from month to month, as needed. For example, a county that receives an annual allocation of 1,200 exemption months for the federal fiscal year may choose to spread them out evenly over the 12-month period, reserve them for months in which high unemployment is expected, or a variation of the two methodologies to achieve maximum benefit for their ABAWD population.

Annual usage of the 15 percent ABAWD exemptions is measured on a statewide basis. These exemptions are reported on line 10 of the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program, Quarterly ABAWDs Statistical and Expenditure Report (STAT 46). Although, under- or over-utilization of the exemptions by individual counties could potentially balance out statewide, if the total number of exemptions used by the counties exceeds the State's annual allocation, the excess usage is offset against the State's exemption allocation in the next federal fiscal year. There is no financial penalty to the State or the counties for under- or over-utilizing the 15 percent exemption.

#### Food Stamp Sanctions and the 15 Percent Exemption

As a reminder, regulations in Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Sections 63-410.53 and 63-407.53 specify that when an individual receives a food stamp sanction for voluntarily quitting a job or failing to comply with an FSET assignment, the individual may not reestablish eligibility until the sanction is cured, or the person qualifies for one of the food stamp work registration exemptions at MPP Section 63-407.21. This means that the 15 percent exemption cannot be granted until the sanction is cured.

If you have any questions regarding the exemption allocations described in this notice, please contact Tony Pyara at (916) 657-2630 or by e-mail at [tony.pyara@dss.ca.gov](mailto:tony.pyara@dss.ca.gov).

For questions regarding the completion of the STAT 46 (Food Stamp and Training Program Quarterly ABAWDs Statistical and Expenditure Report), please call Juliet Mende at (916) 651-8269.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By  
Charr Lee Metsker on 7/7/03***

CHARR LEE METSKER, Chief  
Employment and Eligibility Branch

Attachments

c: CWDA  
CSAC

| <u>STATE</u>   | <u>FY03 + Carry Over</u> |               |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
|                | <u>MONTHLY</u>           | <u>ANNUAL</u> |
| Alabama        | 8,532                    | 102,386       |
| Alaska*        | 677                      | 8,122         |
| Arizona*       | 0                        | 0             |
| Arkansas       | 4,220                    | 50,635        |
| California     | 48,016                   | 576,188       |
| Colorado *     | 1,972                    | 23,661        |
| Connecticut    | 2,412                    | 28,944        |
| Delaware*      | 756                      | 9,072         |
| Dist. of Col.  | 0                        | 0             |
| Florida        | 1,312                    | 15,739        |
| Georgia        | 11,160                   | 133,916       |
| Guam           | 121                      | 1,452         |
| Hawaii         | 2,489                    | 29,863        |
| Idaho*         | 1,341                    | 16,094        |
| Illinois       | 1,449                    | 17,387        |
| Indiana*       | 6,242                    | 74,899        |
| Iowa           | 305                      | 3,662         |
| Kansas*        | 272                      | 3,263         |
| Kentucky       | 5,139                    | 61,671        |
| Louisiana*     | 868                      | 10,411        |
| Maine          | 1,654                    | 19,844        |
| Maryland       | 1,667                    | 19,998        |
| Massachusetts  | 4,291                    | 51,492        |
| Michigan       | 34,227                   | 410,727       |
| Minnesota      | 2,565                    | 30,775        |
| Mississippi    | 7,905                    | 94,863        |
| Missouri       | 6,858                    | 82,292        |
| Montana        | 1,468                    | 17,616        |
| Nebraska       | 1,373                    | 16,475        |
| Nevada*        | 1,456                    | 17,467        |
| New Hampshire  | 124                      | 1,491         |
| New Jersey     | 3,825                    | 45,900        |
| New Mexico     | 1,824                    | 21,888        |
| New York       | 24,148                   | 289,771       |
| North Carolina | 8,348                    | 100,170       |
| North Dakota   | 846                      | 10,152        |
| Ohio*          | 17,491                   | 209,886       |
| Oklahoma*      | 8,154                    | 97,848        |
| Oregon*        | 5,057                    | 60,688        |
| Pennsylvania   | 8,581                    | 102,977       |
| Rhode Island   | 607                      | 7,284         |

|                 |       |        |
|-----------------|-------|--------|
| South Carolina* | 2,471 | 29,647 |
|-----------------|-------|--------|

| <i>STATE</i>   | <u>MONTHLYANNUAL</u> |         |
|----------------|----------------------|---------|
| South Dakota   | 508                  | 6,101   |
| Tennessee*     | 14,847               | 178,159 |
| Texas*         | 26,368               | 316,420 |
| Utah*          | 1,007                | 12,080  |
| Vermont        | 1,638                | 19,656  |
| Virginia       | 11,030               | 132,360 |
| Virgin Islands | 197                  | 2,364   |
| Washington*    | 2,674                | 32,090  |
| West Virginia  | 3,239                | 38,871  |
| Wisconsin*     | 4,284                | 51,402  |
| Wyoming        | 844                  | 10,128  |

\*States with Adjusted ABAWDS exemptions. Arizona has zero exemptions because it used more ABAWDS slots in FY2002 than originally allotted.

FFY 2003 ALLOCATION OF 15% EXEMPTIONS FOR  
ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS

| COUNTIES        | NAFS Caseload | % to Total | Additional 15%<br>ABAWD Exemptions<br>40,381 |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|--|
| ALAMEDA         | 103,257       | 0.023366   | 944  |
| ALPINE          | 217           | 0.000049   | 2  |
| AMADOR          | 3,315         | 0.000750   | 30   |
| BUTTE           | 51,515        | 0.011657   | 471  |
| CALAVERAS       | 6,563         | 0.001485   | 60   |
| COLUSA          | 4,411         | 0.000998   | 40   |
| CONTRA COSTA    | 49,216        | 0.011137   | 450  |
| DEL NORTE       | 12,267        | 0.002776   | 112  |
| EL DORADO       | 15,220        | 0.003444   | 139  |
| FRESNO          | 177,962       | 0.040270   | 1,626  |
| GLENN           | 7,056         | 0.001597   | 64   |
| HUMBOLDT        | 38,134        | 0.008629   | 348  |
| IMPERIAL        | 56,301        | 0.012740   | 514  |
| INYO            | 3,917         | 0.000886   | 36   |
| KERN            | 159,628       | 0.036122   | 1,459  |
| KINGS           | 35,510        | 0.008035   | 324  |
| LAKE            | 15,524        | 0.003513   | 142  |
| LASSEN          | 5,345         | 0.001209   | 49   |
| LOS ANGELES     | 1,802,137     | 0.407798   | 16,465                                       |
| MADERA          | 40,000        | 0.009051   | 366  |
| MARIN           | 14,836        | 0.003357   | 136  |
| MARIPOSA        | 3,175         | 0.000718   | 29   |
| MENDOCINO       | 22,074        | 0.004995   | 202  |
| MERCED          | 40,385        | 0.009139   | 369  |
| MODOC           | 2,725         | 0.000617   | 25   |
| MONO            | 1,407         | 0.000318   | 13   |
| MONTEREY        | 55,738        | 0.012613   | 509  |
| NAPA            | 8,546         | 0.001934   | 78   |
| NEVADA          | 7,304         | 0.001653   | 67   |
| ORANGE          | 154,253       | 0.034905   | 1,410  |
| PLACER          | 11,279        | 0.002552   | 103  |
| PLUMAS          | 2,808         | 0.000635   | 26   |
| RIVERSIDE       | 115,659       | 0.026172   | 1,057  |
| SACRAMENTO      | 170,996       | 0.038694   | 1,563  |
| SAN BENITO      | 5,914         | 0.001338   | 54   |
| SAN BERNARDINO  | 240,444       | 0.054409   | 2,197  |
| SAN DIEGO       | 160,178       | 0.036246   | 1,464  |
| SAN FRANCISCO   | 140,368       | 0.031763   | 1,283  |
| SAN JOAQUIN     | 100,493       | 0.022740   | 918  |
| SAN LUIS OBISPO | 18,076        | 0.004090   | 165  |
| SAN MATEO       | 14,374        | 0.003253   | 131  |
| SANTA BARBARA   | 34,181        | 0.007735   | 312  |
| SANTA CLARA     | 90,461        | 0.020470   | 827  |
| SANTA CRUZ      | 20,293        | 0.004592   | 185  |
| SHASTA          | 43,882        | 0.009930   | 401  |
| SIERRA          | 432           | 0.000098   | 4  |
| SISKIYOU        | 11,779        | 0.002665   | 108  |
| SOLANO          | 23,180        | 0.005245   | 212  |
| SONOMA          | 24,529        | 0.005551   | 224  |
| STANISLAUS      | 57,280        | 0.012962   | 523  |
| SUTTER          | 15,523        | 0.003513   | 142  |
| TEHAMA          | 16,047        | 0.003631   | 147  |
| TRINITY         | 3,837         | 0.000868   | 35   |
| TULARE          | 92,164        | 0.020855   | 842  |
| TUOLUMNE        | 8,408         | 0.001903   | 77   |
| VENTURA         | 60,808        | 0.013760   | 556  |
| YOLO            | 16,843        | 0.003811   | 154  |
| YUBA            | 21,019        | 0.004756   | 192  |
| TOTAL           | 4,419,193     | 1.000000   | 40,381                                       |