

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



April 16, 2004

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-22-04

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

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

SUBJECT: FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2004 FOOD STAMP EMPLOYMENT
AND TRAINING (FSET) PROGRAM 15 PERCENT EXEMPTION
ALLOCATIONS FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS
(ABAWDS)REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY LETTER 03-51 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE (USDA), FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS)
ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICES 04-11, 04-17 AND 98-37

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties with the FFY 2004 allocation of the 15 percent exemptions from the ABAWD work requirement. ABAWDs can receive food stamps for only three months in a 36-month time period unless they work at least 20 hours a week or participate in an approved work or training program. The Balance Budget Act of 1997 allows States to exempt 15 percent of their ABAWD population from the three-month time limit for ABAWDs who are at risk of losing their food stamp benefits for not meeting the work requirement.

For the period of April 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004, California can exempt 40,014 ABAWDs monthly or a total of 240,084 from the work requirement as specified in Federal Administrative Notice 04-17, dated February 18, 2004. This amount includes the unused 15 percent exemptions that were carried over from FFY 2003.

Attachment 1 displays the county allocation of average monthly ABAWD 15 percent exemptions for FFY 2004. The allotment of 15 percent ABAWD exemptions for each county is based on its share of the statewide non-assistance food stamp caseload for FFY 2003. Each county has the flexibility to determine the most efficient and effective manner for use of its 15 percent exemptions. The county can vary the number of 15 percent exemptions utilized from month to month, as needed. For example, a county that receives an annual allocation of 1,200 exemptions may choose to spread them out evenly over the 12 months, reserve them for months in which high unemployment is expected, or a variation of the two methodologies to achieve maximum benefit for its ABAWD population.

To minimize the impact of ABAWDs losing their food stamp benefits, counties are encouraged to carefully manage and only utilize their allocated 15 percent exemptions for these ABAWDs. When a State over-utilizes the previous year's allotment, FNS will reduce the number of 15 percent exemptions in the next FFY. And, when states under-utilize their allocation, the unused number of 15 percent exemptions is rolled-over to the following FFY.

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

Usage of the ABAWD 15 percent exemptions is reported monthly on line 3 of the Food Stamp Program Work Registrant, ABAWDs, and FSET Program Caseload Report, (STAT 47) form. If you have questions or require assistance with reporting requirements or completing the STAT 47, please contact Linda Pasley at (916) 651-9773.

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

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By ' Pat Sutherland for:

RIGHTON YEE, Chief
Food Stamp Branch

Attachment

c: CWDA
CSAC

FFY 2004
ALLOCATION OF 15% EXEMPTIONS
(With no time limit)

COUNTY	AVERAGE MONTHLY NAFS CASELOAD FOR FFY 2003	PERCENT OF TOTAL CASELOAD	ABAWD EXEMPTIONS PER MONTH	ANNUAL ABAWD EXEMPTIONS (6 months)
ALAMEDA	8,557	0.0208506947	834	5,004
ALPINE	27	0.0000657904	2	12
AMADOR	322	0.0007846119	31	186
BUTTE	4,518	0.0110089329	440	2,640
CALAVERAS	461	0.0011233108	44	264
COLUSA	349	0.0008504023	34	204
CONTRA COSTA	4,144	0.0100976135	404	2,424
DEL NORTE	844	0.0020565603	82	492
EL DORADO	1,234	0.0030068666	120	720
FRESNO	16,043	0.0390917021	1564	9,384
GLENN	586	0.0014278961	57	342
HUMBOLDT	3,230	0.0078704854	314	1,884
IMPERIAL	4,701	0.0114548458	458	2,748
INYO	333	0.0008114154	32	192
KERN	14,501	0.0353343372	1413	8,478
KINGS	3,192	0.0077778915	311	1,866
LAKE	1,241	0.0030239234	120	720
LASSEN	420	0.0010234068	40	240
LOS ANGELES	173,066	0.4217069450	16874	101,244
MADERA	3,285	0.0080045030	320	1,920
MARIN	1,527	0.0037208146	148	888
MARIPOSA	247	0.0006018607	24	144
MENDOCINO	2,777	0.0067666681	270	1,620
MERCED	4,503	0.0109723826	439	2,634
MODOC	210	0.0005117034	20	120
MONO	120	0.0002924019	11	66
MONTEREY	4,442	0.0108237450	433	2,598
NAPA	687	0.0016740011	66	396
NEVADA	485	0.0011817912	47	282
ORANGE	14,854	0.0361944863	1448	8,688
PLACER	970	0.0023635823	94	564
PLUMAS	158	0.0003849959	15	90
RIVERSIDE	8,956	0.0218229311	873	5,238
SACRAMENTO	17,037	0.0415137648	1661	9,966
SAN BENITO	593	0.0014449529	57	342
SAN BERNARDINO	21,224	0.0517161557	2069	12,414
SAN DIEGO	13,211	0.0321910164	1288	7,728
SAN FRANCISCO	14,138	0.0344498214	1378	8,268
SAN JOAQUIN	8,147	0.0198516548	794	4,764
SAN LUIS OBISPO	1,600	0.0038986925	156	936
SAN MATEO	1,555	0.0037890418	151	906
SANTA BARBARA	3,139	0.0076487473	306	1,836
SANTA CLARA	9,854	0.0240110723	960	5,760
SANTA CRUZ	2,524	0.0061501874	246	1,476
SHASTA	3,475	0.0084674727	338	2,028
SIERRA	31	0.0000755372	3	18
SISKIYOU	1,156	0.0028168053	112	672
SOLANO	2,355	0.0057383880	229	1,374
SONOMA	2,946	0.0071784675	287	1,722
STANISLAUS	5,700	0.0138890919	581	3,486
SUTTER	1,239	0.0030190500	120	720
TEHAMA	1,298	0.0031628143	126	756
TRINITY	323	0.0007870485	31	186
TULARE	8,603	0.0209627821	838	5,028
TUOLUMNE	755	0.0018396955	73	438
VENTURA	5,296	0.0129046721	516	3,096
YOLO	1,735	0.0042276447	169	1,014
YUBA	1,470	0.0035819237	143	858
TOTAL	410,394	1.000000	40,014	240,084