

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



May 16, 2005

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-22-05

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2005 FOOD STAMP EMPLOYMENT  
AND TRAINING (FSET) PROGRAM 15 PERCENT EXEMPTION  
ALLOCATIONS FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS  
(ABAWDS)

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 purpose of this letter is to provide counties with the FFY 2005 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.

The effective date of the current allocations is retroactive to April 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005. California can exempt 44,712 ABAWDs monthly or a total of 268,272 from the work requirement. This amount includes the unused 15 percent exemptions that were carried over from FFY 2004.

Attachment 1 displays the county allocation of monthly ABAWD 15 percent exemptions for FFY 2005. 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 2004. Each county has the flexibility to determine the most efficient and effective manner to use 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 utilize 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 ABAWDs who may lose food stamp benefits. When a State over-utilizes the previous year's allotment, FNS will reduce the number of 15 percent exemptions for 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 as specified in 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 Lisa Lacy at (916) 654-1435 or by e-mail at [lisa.lacy@dss.ca.gov](mailto:lisa.lacy@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

RIGHTON YEE, Chief  
Food Stamp Branch

Attachment

## 2005 15% Exemptions

ATTACHMENT I

County	Intake & Continuing Ave. Monthly Caseload (DFA 296) Most Current 12 Months	% to Total	Allocation Per Month Per County
ALAMEDA	11,342	2.36%	1,055
ALPINE	27	0.01%	3
AMADOR	375	0.08%	35
BUTTE	5,417	1.13%	504
CALAVERAS	545	0.11%	51
COLUSA	380	0.08%	35
CONTRA COSTA	6,048	1.26%	563
DEL NORTE	1,071	0.22%	100
EL DORADO	1,409	0.29%	131
FRESNO	19,998	4.16%	1,860
GLENN	669	0.14%	62
HUMBOLDT	3,802	0.79%	354
IMPERIAL	5,312	1.11%	494
INYO	389	0.08%	36
KERN	18,528	3.85%	1,724
KINGS	3,725	0.77%	346
LAKE	1,433	0.30%	133
LASSEN	504	0.10%	47
LOS ANGELES	188,199	39.15%	17,507
MADERA	3,261	0.68%	303
MARIN	1,429	0.30%	133
MARIPOSA	263	0.05%	24
MENDOCINO	3,630	0.76%	338
MERCED	5,445	1.13%	506
MODOC	196	0.04%	18
MONO	136	0.03%	13
MONTEREY	5,533	1.15%	515
NAPA	870	0.18%	81
NEVADA	665	0.14%	62
ORANGE	18,849	3.92%	1,753
PLACER	1,456	0.30%	135
PLUMAS	203	0.04%	19
RIVERSIDE	9,410	1.96%	875
SACRAMENTO	22,816	4.75%	2,122
SAN BENITO	792	0.16%	74
SAN BERNARDINO	25,782	5.36%	2,398
SAN DIEGO	16,148	3.36%	1,502
SAN FRANCISCO	16,282	3.39%	1,515
SAN JOAQUIN	8,767	1.82%	816
SAN LUIS OBISPO	2,026	0.42%	188
SAN MATEO	2,356	0.49%	219
SANTA BARBARA	3,953	0.82%	368
SANTA CLARA	13,364	2.78%	1,243
SANTA CRUZ	2,984	0.62%	278
SHASTA	3,956	0.82%	368
SIERRA	33	0.01%	3
SISKIYOU	1,315	0.27%	122
SOLANO	3,364	0.70%	313
SONOMA	3,761	0.78%	350
STANISLAUS	7,543	1.57%	702
SUTTER	1,390	0.29%	129
TEHAMA	1,465	0.30%	136
TRINITY	356	0.07%	33
TULARE	11,214	2.33%	1,043
TUOLUMNE	719	0.15%	67
VENTURA	6,040	1.26%	562
YOLO	1,939	0.40%	180
YUBA	1,783	0.37%	166
TOTALS	480,664	100.00%	44,712

5/12/2005