

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



September 28, 2007

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-51-07

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2007 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 their ABAWD 15 percent exemption allocation for FFY 2007. The release of the final allocation figures took much longer than was anticipated and the Department apologizes for the delay in providing counties with their ABAWD 15 percent exemption allocation for this year. On July 30, 2007, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) notified each state of its share of the 15 percent exemptions via Administrative Notice 07-09. California's 15 percent exemption allocation is being distributed among eligible counties based on non-assistance caseload size. The effective date of this allocation is October 1, 2006.

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 a qualifying work or training program. Counties may temporarily exempt ABAWDs who are at risk of losing food stamp eligibility due to the three-month limit by granting the 15 percent exemption. The 15 percent exemption provides counties with the ability to temporarily excuse from the ABAWD work requirement those individuals who, due to circumstances beyond their control, are unable to satisfy the ABAWD work requirement.

The annual authorized number of case-month exemptions for California during FFY 2007 is 827,901. When divided by 12, this results in a monthly average of 68,992 15 percent exemption case-months for use in assisting at risk ABAWDs. The allocation includes all of the unused exemption case-months carried over from FFY 2006. The attachment displays the FFY 2007 total 15 percent exemption case-months allocated to each county, except as noted below.

ABAWDs residing in a county with an ABAWD waiver are not subject to the ABAWD work requirement, including the three-month time limit. Effective May 1, 2006, 33 counties received a two-year waiver which will expire April 30, 2008. Since the

ABAWD work requirement was waived in these counties for all of FFY 2007, these counties did not receive allocations of the 15 percent exemption. The 33 counties are: Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Plumas, San Benito, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba. In addition, Santa Cruz County was again approved for a one-year waiver effective May 1, 2007, so no 15 percent exemptions were allocated to this county.

An allocation of 15 percent exemptions is included for those counties (Alameda, Lake, Lassen, Santa Clara, and San Francisco) that have an ABAWD waiver covering a portion of FFY 2007 and/or a partial county waiver. Alameda, San Francisco, and Santa Clara counties were each approved for a one-year waiver from May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007. Alameda and Santa Clara were not eligible for an ABAWD waiver effective April 30, 2007 and 15 percent exemption allocations were issued to these counties for use from May 1, 2007 through the end of the federal fiscal year. San Francisco County received a partial ABAWD waiver for certain parts of the county with a high unemployment rate and 15 percent exemption allocations were issued for those parts of the county where the ABAWD work requirement was not waived. Finally, ABAWD waivers took effect in Lake and Lassen Counties on May 1, 2007. Effective with the ABAWD waiver, Lake and Lassen would no longer have to use the 15 percent exemption.

Each county has discretion in setting criteria to determine those ABAWDs who will be granted the 15 percent exemption and the number of months ABAWDs will be exempted. Counties should manage their use of the 15 percent exemption so that it is granted to those ABAWDs most in need. The length of time each ABAWD is granted the exemption impacts the number of ABAWDs that can be exempted. Fewer ABAWDs can be exempted if lengthier exemptions are granted.

As a reminder, California Department of Social Services Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) sections 63-407.53 and 63-408.61 specify that when an individual receives a food stamp disqualification for failing to comply with a Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) assignment, voluntarily quitting a job, or reducing hours worked to less than 30 per week, that individual may not re-establish eligibility until the disqualification ends or the individual qualifies for one of the food stamp work registration exemptions listed at MPP Section 63-407.21. A 15 percent ABAWD exemption cannot be granted during a food stamp sanction.

County usage of the ABAWD 15 percent exemption is reported in Part A, line 3 (ABAWDs exempt under the 15% criteria) of the Food Stamp Program Work Registrant, ABAWDs, and FSET Program Caseload Report form (STAT 47). It is important that counties report their use of the 15 percent exemption. An ABAWD must be reported as having received the 15 percent exemption for each month it is granted during the quarter. Counties with an ABAWD waiver must not use or report 15 percent exemptions on the STAT 47 (line 3) or should enter a zero for all months the waiver is in effect. For purposes of tracking and

coding the ABAWD 36-month calendar and completing the STAT 47 form (line 2- ABAWDs at the beginning of the month) ABAWDs receiving the 15 percent exemption or in a waiver county are still counted/reported as ABAWDs, even though they are not subject to the work requirement.

If you have questions or require assistance with reporting requirements or completing the STAT 47, please contact Mark Sticklin at (916) 654-1273 or by e-mail at [mark.sticklin@dss.ca.gov](mailto:mark.sticklin@dss.ca.gov). The STAT 47 automated form and instructions can be found at the Data Systems and Survey Design Bureau Research and Data Reports web site <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/dssdb/>. If you have any policy or procedural questions regarding the exemption allocations described in this notice, please contact Robert Nevins at (916) 654-1408 or by e-mail at [robert.nevins@dss.ca.gov](mailto:robert.nevins@dss.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

RIGHTON YEE, Chief  
Food Stamp Branch

Attachment

County	Intake & Continuing		827,901
	Avg. Monthly Caseload (DFA 296 July 2006 - June 2007 Most Current 12 Months	% to Total	FFY 2007 Total ABAWD Exemption Months Per County
ALAMEDA	43,221	8.04%	66,578
ALPINE	0	0.00%	0
AMADOR	470	0.09%	723
BUTTE	0	0.00%	0
CALAVERAS	0	0.00%	0
COLUSA	0	0.00%	0
CONTRA COSTA	22,774	4.24%	35,081
DEL NORTE	0	0.00%	0
EL DORADO	1,573	0.29%	2,423
FRESNO	0	0.00%	0
GLENN	0	0.00%	0
HUMBOLDT	0	0.00%	0
IMPERIAL	0	0.00%	0
INYO	398	0.07%	613
KERN	0	0.00%	0
KINGS	0	0.00%	0
LAKE	1,536	0.29%	2,366
LASSEN	593	0.11%	914
LOS ANGELES	207,692	38.64%	319,927
MADERA	0	0.00%	0
MARIN	2,262	0.42%	3,485
MARIPOSA	0	0.00%	0
MENDOCINO	0	0.00%	0
MERCED	0	0.00%	0
MODOC	0	0.00%	0
MONO	149	0.03%	230
MONTEREY	0	0.00%	0
NAPA	1,040	0.19%	1,602
NEVADA	0	0.00%	0
ORANGE	33,785	6.29%	52,042
PLACER	2,342	0.44%	3,608
PLUMAS	0	0.00%	0
RIVERSIDE	21,108	3.93%	32,515
SACRAMENTO	30,747	5.72%	47,362
SAN BENITO	0	0.00%	0
SAN BERNARDINO	35,029	6.52%	53,958
SAN DIEGO	21,588	4.02%	33,255
SAN FRANCISCO	27,632	5.14%	42,564
SAN JOAQUIN	0	0.00%	0
SAN LUIS OBISPO	0	0.00%	0
SAN MATEO	4,445	0.83%	6,846
SANTA BARBARA	4,971	0.92%	7,657
SANTA CLARA	54,399	10.12%	83,795
SANTA CRUZ	0	0.00%	0
SHASTA	0	0.00%	0
SIERRA	0	0.00%	0
SISKIYOU	0	0.00%	0
SOLANO	5,807	1.08%	8,944
SONOMA	5,195	0.97%	8,002
STANISLAUS	0	0.00%	0
SUTTER	0	0.00%	0
TEHAMA	0	0.00%	0
TRINITY	0	0.00%	0
TULARE	0	0.00%	0
TUOLUMNE	0	0.00%	0
VENTURA	8,707	1.62%	13,412
YOLO	0	0.00%	0
YUBA	0	0.00%	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>537,461</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>827,901</b>