



CDSS

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

August 30, 2013

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-54-13

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS

SUBJECT: ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS STATEWIDE
WAIVER FOR FFY 2014

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 18926; FEDERAL
APPROVAL LETTER DATED JULY 29, 2013

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 inform counties that the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has received federal approval for a statewide waiver of the Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) work requirement for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014. The waiver is effective from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. The waiver was approved by the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) on July 29, 2013. It is based on a recent 12 month average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for California from January through December of 2012. Consistent with federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(i), having a recent unemployment rate above 10 percent is one of the criteria that qualifies a geographic area for an ABAWD waiver.

This letter satisfies the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 18926 which requires CDSS CalFresh Branch to announce the beginning of another waiver for all eligible counties within California except for those counties that decline to participate. This letter contains ABAWD policy information for counties that choose to participate in the ABAWD waiver. Instructions are also provided for any counties that choose not to do so. California received statewide ABAWD waivers for FFY 2012 and 2013. As no counties opted out of the waiver in 2013, no CalFresh recipients are currently subject to the ABAWD work requirement in California.

Implementation Policies

Counties are reminded of the following ABAWD waiver implementation policies:

- ABAWD waiver counties must continue to report work registrants, ABAWDs, and Employment and Training (E&T) data on the CalFresh Program Work Registrant, ABAWD, and CalFresh E&T Caseload Report (STAT 47) and the Annual Work Registrant and CalFresh E&T Caseload Report (STAT 48). For purposes of completing the STAT report forms, persons who do not meet one of the ABAWD exemptions at Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Sections 63-410.31 or .32 are still considered ABAWDs even while residing in a county with a waiver.
- ABAWD waiver counties must not establish a 36-month calendar for a new ABAWD applicant during the waiver period.
- ABAWD waivers do not affect CalFresh E&T participation requirements or program sanction rules for E&T mandatory placements. Currently, E&T is voluntary in all participating counties and CalFresh sanctions are not imposed for noncompliance with E&T requirements.
- ABAWD waiver counties must continue to apply sanction requirements at MPP Section 63-408 to CalFresh work registrants who voluntarily quit a job of 30 hours or more per week or which provides weekly earnings equal to or greater than the federal minimum wage times 30, or who reduce the weekly number of hours worked to less than 30. If a CalFresh recipient quits a job of less than 30 hours, no sanction shall be imposed.
- Those counties that participate in the waiver must inform their ABAWD population that they are not subject to the ABAWD work requirement for those months they reside in the county so long as the waiver is in effect.

Procedure for Declining an ABAWD Waiver

The FFY 2014 ABAWD waiver will be effective October 1, 2013 unless a county notifies CDSS via a letter from its County Board of Supervisors that it intends to pursue opting out of the ABAWD waiver. If your county declines to participate in the waiver, please

inform CDSS of your intent to opt out of the waiver by September 10, 2013. The letter should be sent to Robert Nevins of the CalFresh Branch using the contact information shown below:

Robert Nevins, Analyst
California Department of Social Services
CalFresh Branch
744 P Street, M.S. 8-9-32
Sacramento, CA 95814
E-mail: robert.nevins@dss.ca.gov
Fax: (916) 654-1295

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Robert Nevins at (916) 654-1408.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed by:

LINDA PATTERSON, Chief
CalFresh Branch