



CDSS

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

February 11, 2015

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-09-15

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: TEMPLATE AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR COUNTIES NOT OFFERING A CALFRESH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM IN FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2016

REFERENCE: MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, DIVISION 63, SECTIONS 63-407

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 transmit the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 non- Employment and Training (E&T) template to be completed by those counties not offering a CalFresh E&T Program. The template is part of the non-E&T handbook which also includes policy instructions and program definitions. The non-E&T template is used by counties to identify projected estimates for CalFresh work registrants and Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWDs). This data is used by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) in preparing the state CalFresh Employment and Training plan.

Each year, CDSS is required to submit a CalFresh E&T plan to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). Data from counties who choose to participate in E&T is consolidated into a single plan that must be submitted to FNS by August 15, 2015. As part of the plan, FNS asks for various statewide estimates of work registrants and ABAWDs. All counties must prepare work registrant and ABAWD estimates for inclusion in the state plan, regardless of whether or not they offer an E&T program.

Note: Counties will receive a Microsoft Word document for actual use in preparing their non-E&T template. The Microsoft Word version of the template will be e-mailed to counties upon release of this letter. Please do not use the PDF template enclosed with this ACIN as it is included for instructional purposes only. A county should inform CDSS within three working days from the issuance of this ACIN if it does not receive a Microsoft Word copy of the non-E&T template.

The deadline for submitting your county's non-E&T template is March 10, 2015. Please ensure that your county's completed template is in our office by the above date. Timely submission of your template will greatly assist us in meeting federal deadlines.

In preparing their non-E&T plans, it is important that counties provide reasonably accurate estimates of their projected work registrant and ABAWD populations for FFY 2016. Data

sources to assist counties in developing their estimates may include county generated reports, manual counts, and numbers previously reported by the county on the following forms:

- The Annual Work Registrant and CalFresh E&T Program Caseload Report (STAT 48); and
- CalFresh Program Work Registrant, ABAWD, and CalFresh E&T Program Caseload Report (STAT 47).

Data tables for the STAT 48 and STAT 47 can be found at <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/> under CalFresh, and then under CalFresh Data Tables.

Note: Effective December xx, 2014 the Stat 47 and Stat 48 have been significantly revised and consolidated into a new form. However, counties may find existing data from the Stat 47 and 48 forms helpful in preparing their estimates.

Please ensure that your non-E&T template contains updated contact information. Contact information should include the name, title, telephone number, fax, and e-mail address of the individual who has primary responsibility for preparing the non-E&T template. A secondary contact person and his/her contact information should also be identified in case the primary contact is not available.

Please e-mail your non-E&T plan in Microsoft Word to Robert Nevins at Robert.Nevins@dss.ca.gov. It is not necessary for you to send a signed copy of the template until it has been reviewed by CDSS staff and any requested revisions have been made. Upon receiving state approval of your non-E&T template, please send a hard copy to CDSS using the following contact information:

ATTN: Mr. William Belon, CalFresh Analyst
California Department of Social Services
CalFresh Branch
744 P Street, M.S. 8-9-32
Sacramento, CA 95814

If you have any questions about this letter, or the preparation of your non-E&T template, please contact Robert Nevins at (916) 654-1408 or Bill Belon at (916) 654-1905.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

LINDA PATTERSON, Chief
CalFresh Branch

Enclosure

Handbook for Counties Not Offering a CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T)
Program

COUNTY Non-E&T TEMPLATE COVER SHEET

(To be completed by counties not offering E&T in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016)

This template has been prepared by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), CalFresh Branch. It is used by counties to identify projected estimates of work registrants and Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs). The due date for submission of the non-E&T template is March 10, 2015. Counties must use the enclosed template in submitting their work registrant and ABAWD estimates.

Name of County:_____
Name of Primary non-E&T Contact:
Title:
Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:
Name of Secondary Contact:
Secondary Contact Telephone:
Secondary Contact E-mail:
Date Submitted:

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is required to prepare a CalFresh Employment and Training (E&T) plan for review by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The state E&T plan consists of a synopsis of the individual E&T plans developed by counties participating in the E&T program. FNS also requires the inclusion of various statewide estimates of work registrants and Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) as part of the E&T plan. All counties, regardless of whether or not they participate in E&T, must provide CDSS with the work registrant and ABAWD estimates requested by FNS.

This handbook is designed for use by counties not offering a CalFresh E&T program, hereafter referred to as non-E&T counties. The handbook consists of a template, instructions, and a brief definitions section explaining those terms relevant to counties not participating in E&T. CDSS issues a copy of this handbook in Microsoft Word to be used by counties in submitting their estimates. Do not use the template included in this PDF file as it is for instructional purposes only. Those counties not participating in E&T should submit their non-E&T template to CDSS no later than March 10, 2015.

Preparing Accurate Estimates

In developing their estimates of work registrants and ABAWDs, it is essential that counties have an accurate understanding of those CalFresh recipients who should be included in these populations. Counties should remember the following in preparing their estimates:

- The work registrant population is the largest population captured in the template.
- The ABAWD population is a subset of the work registrant population. ABAWDs and work registrants are not distinct unrelated groups, but the ABAWD population is a smaller population within the work registrant population.
- There are always fewer ABAWDs in the county than there are work registrants because additional exemptions have been established for the ABAWD work requirement, which are not included in the list of work registration exemptions (see MPP Section 63-407.21, 63-410.32, and the definitions below).
- Persons who do not qualify for an ABAWD exemption are counted as ABAWDs even if they reside in a county with an ABAWD waiver, or are granted the 15 percent ABAWD exemption. Such persons are not considered exempt from the ABAWD work requirement.

Once a county has estimated the size of its work registrant population, it should use this population as its base for determining estimates for the number of ABAWDs in the county. To estimate the size of the county's ABAWD population, counties may take the following steps:

1. Estimate the number of work registrants who qualify for the ABAWD exemptions based on age (under 18 or over 49), pregnancy, and living in a CalFresh household with a child under age 18;
2. Deduct the total of item #1 from the overall work registrant count;
3. Use the resulting figure from item #2 as the estimated ABAWD population.

Relationship of the Non-E&T Template to the STAT 47 and STAT 48 Reports

Effective December 31, 2014, the Stat 47 and Stat 48 forms have been significantly revised and consolidated into a single report. The new report is entitled “Non-Assistance CalFresh Work Registrants, Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD), and Employment and Training (E&T) Program Quarterly Statistical Report STAT 47 (10/14).” Counties must use the revised report in preparing work registrant and ABAWD estimates for future years. However, the work registrant counts from the October 1, 2014 Stat 48 report and the quarterly counts from Stat 47 reports submitted in FFY 2014 may be helpful to counties in preparing their work registrant estimates for FFY 2016. If numbers contained on the STAT forms look questionable when compared to other known data such as the size and characteristics of the county’s non-assistance CalFresh caseload, the county should incorporate the use of additional sources such as adhoc reports to ensure that estimates contained in their non-E&T template are reasonable.

Counties are reminded that the estimates of work registrants and ABAWDs contained in their non-E&T template should be based on unduplicated counts. The ABAWD count on the STAT 47 prior to its revision is a duplicated count and there was no entry for ABAWD counts on the Stat 48 for FFY 2014. An October 1 entry for ABAWDs has been added to the revised Stat 47 report and the form has been redesigned to capture an unduplicated ABAWD count. In the meantime, counties should use other sources and methods in projecting an October 1, 2015 ABAWD estimate in their non-E&T template and do their best to ensure that their work registrant and ABAWD estimates are unduplicated.

Note: FNS utilizes the number of work registrants identified by counties on the statistical reports as the primary source for determining each state’s annual E&T allocation. Thus, it is essential that counties periodically review the STAT 47 report to ensure that work registrant numbers appear reasonable when compared with the size and makeup of the CalFresh caseload. Periodic training is highly recommended to ensure that county staff have a right understanding of who should be included in the work registrant and ABAWD populations. Inappropriately small work registrant counts will lead to a reduction in the size of California’s federal E&T allocation.

TEMPLATE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

County estimates should be submitted using the format in this handbook. Data sources for preparing these estimates may include county generated reports, manual counts, and numbers previously reported by the county on the following forms:

- The Annual Work Registrant and CalFresh E&T Program Caseload Report (STAT 48)
- The CalFresh Program Work Registrant, ABAWD, and CalFresh E&T Program Caseload Report (STAT 47)

Data tables for the STAT 48 and STAT 47 can be found at the following two websites:
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/PG359.htm>
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/research/PG360.htm>

Counties are encouraged to review these data reports and the definitions provided in these guidelines prior to preparing their estimates. The Stat 48 report consists of a point-in-time count of work registrants residing in the county on October 1. It is not a cumulative count for the previous fiscal year, nor a count of the work registrants anticipated for the month of October. The quarterly Stat 47 report gathers unduplicated counts of all new work registrants added each quarter. The cumulative total of four Stat 47 reports may be helpful in preparing estimates for the number of new work registrants to be added during the FFY.

WORK REGISTRANT AND ABAWD ESTIMATES FOR FFY 2016

Please be as accurate as possible in developing these estimates. This may require the use of multiple sources. Use data from the current fiscal year, whenever possible, in formulating the initial estimates. Adjustments should then be made based on notable trends in the size of the CalFresh caseload. Please avoid using the same estimates from previous years without performing necessary research. This is especially true if other reports suggest a change in the size and/or characteristics of your county's non-assistance CalFresh caseload.

A. Work Registrant Population

1. Work Registrant Counts - Estimate the following:
 - a. The number of work registrants in the existing CalFresh caseload expected to be in the county on October 1, 2015 (Part A, entry 1 of the point-in-time STAT 48 form). - _____
 - b. The anticipated number of new work registrants to be added between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016 (Part A, entry 1 of the STAT 47 forms for the entire FFY). - _____

This estimate may be consistent with the cumulative total of four consecutive quarters worth of data from Part A, entry 1 of the STAT 47 report. However, counties may need to consult additional sources in developing reasonable estimates.

- c. The total number of work registrants residing in the county for the Federal Fiscal Year (a+b=c). - _____

2. Unduplicated or Duplicated Work Registrant Count

To the best of their ability, counties are required to give an unduplicated count of work registrants. Individuals included in the work registrant count on October 1 should not be included in any subsequent count of work registrants for the remainder of the year. In addition, individuals certified for CalFresh or registered for work more than once in a 12-month period should only be reported as a work registrant once during that 12-month period.

- a. Indicate whether the count of work registrants is unduplicated or duplicated.
- b. Identify the sources for preparing work registrant estimates and note any methods employed to eliminate duplicate counts.

B. ABAWD Population

Note: The ABAWD population is a subset of the work registrant population. There are always fewer ABAWDs than there are work registrants because there are added exemptions from the ABAWD work requirement, which do not apply to work registration. Persons not exempt from the ABAWD work requirement are included in the county's ABAWD population, even if they reside in a waiver county or are granted the 15 percent exemption.

1. ABAWD Counts - Estimate the following:

- a. The number of ABAWDs in the existing CalFresh caseload expected to be in the county on October 1, 2015. - _____
- b. The anticipated number of new ABAWDs to be added between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016. - _____
- c. The total number of work registrants residing in the county for the Federal Fiscal Year (a+b=c). - _____

2. Unduplicated or Duplicated ABAWD Count

Note: ABAWD counts on the STAT 47 are duplicate counts. Counties should adjust their ABAWD numbers to reflect an unduplicated estimate. The Stat 47 has been revised to capture unduplicated counts, but numbers from the revised report will not be available in time for county use in preparing FFY 2016 estimates.

- a. Indicate whether the count of ABAWDs is unduplicated or duplicated.
- b. Identify the sources for preparing ABAWD estimates and note any methods employed to eliminate duplicate counts.

DEFINITIONS

ABAWD - An Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) is a non-assistance CalFresh recipient age 18 to 49 who does not qualify for one of the ABAWD exemptions listed in Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Section 63-410.31 and .32 (See list below). ABAWDs are subject to the ABAWD work requirement which is summarized in this section.

ABAWD Exemptions - Persons are exempt from the ABAWD work requirement if they qualify for a work registration exemption at MPP Section 63-407.21 (see list of work registration exemptions below). Consistent with MPP Section 63-410.32, individuals are also exempt if they are:

- Under 18 or over 49 years of age;
- Residing in a CalFresh household that includes a child under 18 years of age; or
- Pregnant.

CalFresh Employment and Training Program - A county-administered program designed to assist CalFresh recipients increase their employability and self-sufficiency through participation in job search, job club, workfare, work experience, education and/or vocational training components.

Work Registrant - A non-assistance CalFresh applicant or recipient who does not meet one of the work registration exemptions at MPP Section 63-407.21. Work registrants are subject to CalFresh work registration requirements at MPP Section 63-407.4. Work registrant requirements and exemptions are listed below.

Work Registration Exemptions – Consistent with MPP Section 63-407.21, an individual is exempt from CalFresh work registrant requirements if he/she is:

- Younger than 16 years of age or 60 years of age or older;
- 16 or 17 years of age and who is not the head of the household, or who is attending school or enrolled in an employment training program at least half time;
- Physically or mentally unfit for employment;
- Complying with CalWORKs Welfare-To-Work requirements;
- Caring for a dependent child under age six or an incapacitated person;

- Receiving or has applied for unemployment insurance benefits;
- Participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program that prohibits employment of 30 hours or more per week;
- Employed or self-employed at least 30 hours per week or receiving weekly earnings at least equal to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours; or
- Attending school on at least a half-time basis.

Work Registrant Requirements - As a condition of CalFresh eligibility, every non-assistance applicant and recipient between the ages of 15 and 60 who does not qualify for a work registration exemption must comply with the following requirements:

- register for work or be registered by the county (see policies released in All County Information Notice (ACIN) I-01-13);
- participate in the E&T Program if assigned by the county;
- provide sufficient information to determine employment status or availability for work if requested by the county;
- report to an employer when referred by the county or its designee;
- accept a bona fide offer of suitable employment; and
- must not voluntarily quit a job of 30 or more hours a week or reduce work hours to fewer than 30 hours a week without good cause.