

ABAWD Time Limit

Implications of the final rule and lessons learned from 6 counties



ABAWD Time Limit: Implications of the final rule and lessons learned from 6 counties

1:40pm - 3:05pm

Amber Bonilla, Policy Analyst,
CalFresh Policy Unit, CDSS

Liz Gomez, Director of Client
Services, Alameda County
Community Food Bank

Kristina Meza, CalFresh E&T Section
Chief, CDSS

Rashon Seldon, Program Specialist,
Alameda County Social Services

Peri Weisberg, Senior Analyst, San
Francisco HHSA

Moderator: **Becky Gershon**, CA
Association of Food Banks



ABAWD FINAL RULE UPDATES & CONTEXT



**February 5, 2020
CalFresh Forum**

**#SNAPMatters
#TalkPoverty
@CAFoodPolicy
@Western_Center
@Jess_Bartholow**

A PRESENTATION BY:

JESSICA BARTHLOW

THE WESTERN CENTER ON LAW & POVERTY



WHAT CALFRESH RECIPIENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE FUTURE

CalFresh recipients are positive, they haven't given up and they don't see themselves on CalFresh for life.

- "I have a choice. I can either give up, or decide that each day is a new day and try my best that day to make something happen. I chose to believe it will be better."
- "I don't think I'm going to need CalFresh in June. I've got a lot of interviews lined up and I feel hopeful, but I want to fight the rule because I know how important CalFresh is when you are hungry."
- "There are so many people that need this help. Without it, it will be really hard for us to be healthy and get stable."



ABAWD Time Limit: Implications of the Final Rule and Preparations for April Implementation

Kristina Meza,
Acting Bureau Chief
CalFresh Policy and Employment Bureau

Amber Bonilla,
Manager, ABAWD Policy Unit, CalFresh Policy &
Employment Bureau

Background

- ABAWDs are eligible to no more than three full months of CalFresh benefits in a 36-month period, unless they are exempt from the time limit or are satisfying the work requirement.
- The SNAP time limit was implemented as part of federal welfare reform.
- The USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the Final Rule, *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents* on December 5, 2019.

Overview of Final Rule

Waiver Criteria

- Redefines ABAWD Waiver Areas
- Imposes Two Core Standards
- Effective April 1, 2020

Discretionary Exemptions

- Eliminates current banked exemptions
- Limits carryover moving forward
- Effective October 1, 2020

Definition of a Waiver Area

The Final Rule strictly defines what areas may be considered for time limit waivers as:

- Labor Market Areas (LMA)
- Intrastate part of an interstate LMA
- Indian Reservation Area or U.S. Territory

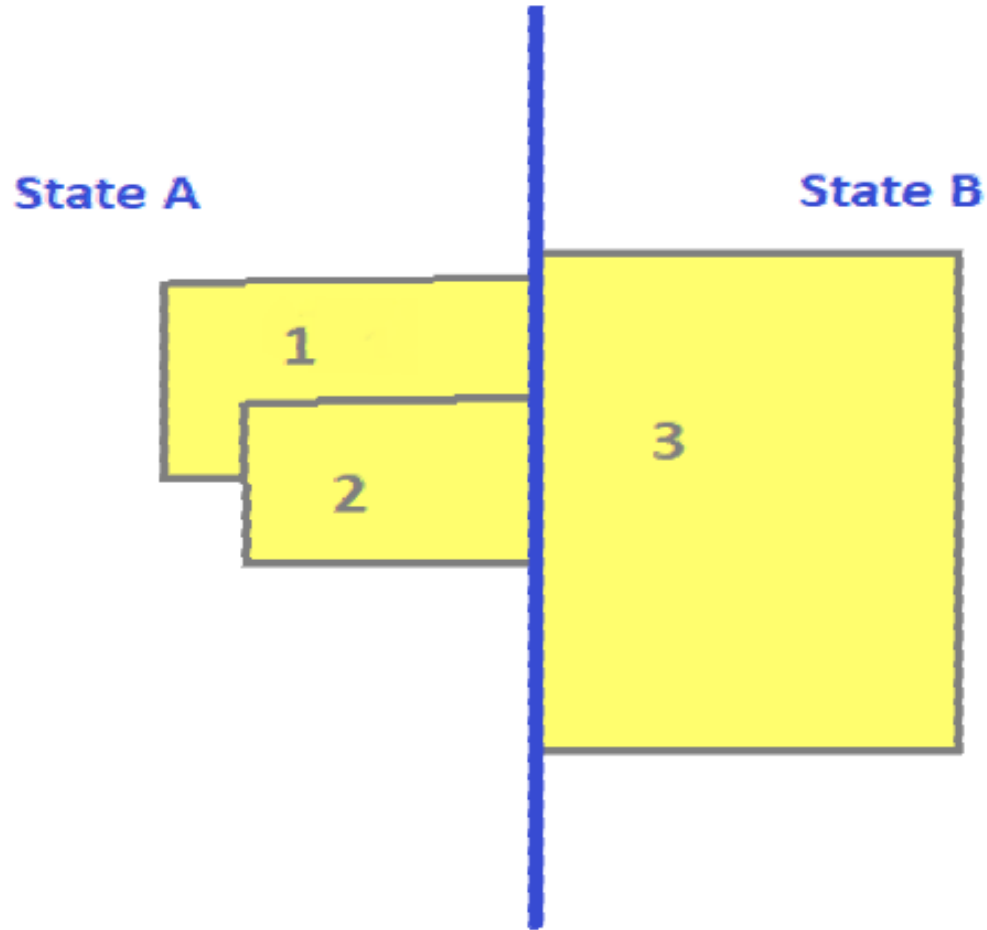
Labor Market Area

- Defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) as an economically integrated area within which individuals can reside and find employment within a reasonable distance. LMAs are non-overlapping geographic areas.

Intrastate Part of an Interstate LMA

- Interstate LMAs are LMAs that cross state lines. The intrastate part of an LMA is the part of the LMA within California.

Intrastate Part of an Interstate LMA



- The blue line is States' border.
- The yellow area is a 3-county interstate LMA.
- Counties 1 and 2 are State A's intrastate part of the interstate LMA. County 3 is State B's intrastate part of the interstate LMA.
- State A would need to provide data for the entire LMA in order to waive its intrastate part (counties 1 and 2).

Indian Reservation or U.S. Territory

- Indian reservations and U.S. territories are both considered areas for purposes of time limit waivers. Reservations may also be waived as part of an LMA.

Core Standards for Waiver Requests & Approvals

Limits Waiver Approval: Two Core Standards

1. 12 month unemployment rate over 10%
2. 24 month unemployment rate 20% over national rate with a 6% floor.

1. 12-Month Unemployment Rate Over 10 Percent

- Areas showing 12-month average unemployment rate over 10% continue to qualify for a waiver
- Current waiver standard

2. 24-Month Average Unemployment Rate 20 Percent Above National Average, 6 Percent Floor

- Areas must have a 24-month average unemployment rate that is 20 percent above the national average, BUT no less than 6 percent
- Current waiver standard + addition of 6 percent floor

Other Waiver Provisions

Areas with Limited Data or Evidence

- Areas where BLS data is limited or unavailable are not required to meet core standards.
- States must provide recent supporting data which may include:
 - Estimated unemployment rates based on available data from BLS or the U.S. Census Bureau;
 - A low and declining employment-to-population ratio;
 - A lack of jobs in declining occupations or industries; or
 - An academic study or other publication describing the area as lacking a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for its residents.

Exceptional Circumstances

- Waivers may be requested for an area with an exceptional circumstance that has caused a lack of sufficient jobs, or unemployment rate over 10 percent
- Exceptional circumstances include:
 - The disintegration of an economically and regionally important industry
 - The prolonged impact of a natural disaster, or
 - A sharp, continuing economic decline.
- Approved on a case-by-case basis

Timeliness of Data

- The Final Rule sets a specific limit to the 24-month data period that may be used when requesting time limit waivers.
- There must not be more than 21 months from the end of the last month of the 24-month data period through the last month the waiver would be effective.



Timeliness of Data - Example

California requests a 12-month ABAWD time limit waiver for April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021. Data provided shows the requested areas meet the core standards for a data period from July 2017 through June 2019. This data period is acceptable because the number of months from the end of June 2019 through the end of March 2021 equals 21 months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	KEY
2017							1	2	3	4	5	6	Data Period
2018	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Waiver Period
2019	19	20	21	22	23	24							
2020				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
2021	10	11	12										

Duration of Waiver Approvals

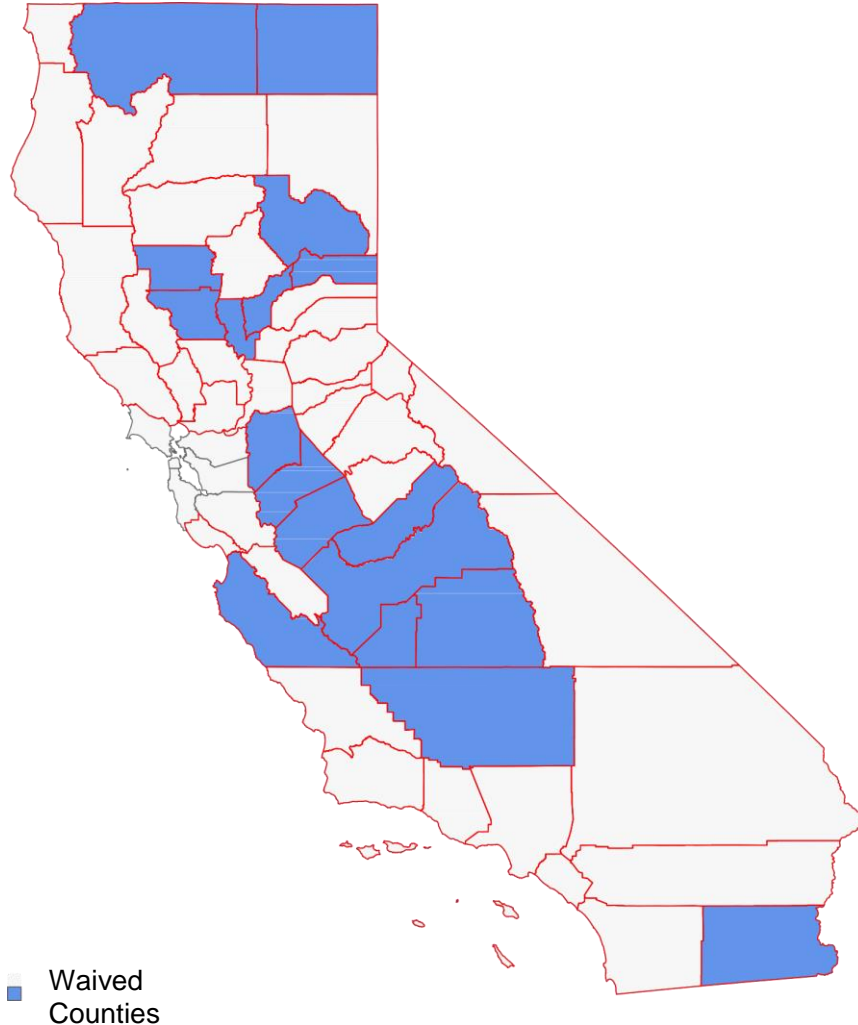
- Waiver approvals limited to 1 year
- FNS may approve shorter waivers at the request of the state

Support of Governor

- All waiver requests must have support of the Governor



Impact to California



- CA currently under a partial waiver
 - Expires March 31, 2020
- Next waiver = pending
 - If approved – 34 additional counties will implement on April 1, 2020 – for a total of 40 counties

Changes to Discretionary Exemption Carryover

Current Discretionary Exemption Carryover

- Will be eliminated if not allocated to ABAWDs prior to October 1, 2020

Carryover Limits

- Moving forward, the carryover of discretionary exemptions is limited to one year after their initial allocation
- Indefinite accumulation no longer allowed

Overuse of Discretionary Exemptions

- Codifies discretionary exemption overuse policy
- If more discretionary exemptions are used than what was allocated, the number of overused exemptions will be deducted from the allocation the following year
- If the negative balance is not fully offset, FNS will hold the state liable for the remainder

What isn't changing?



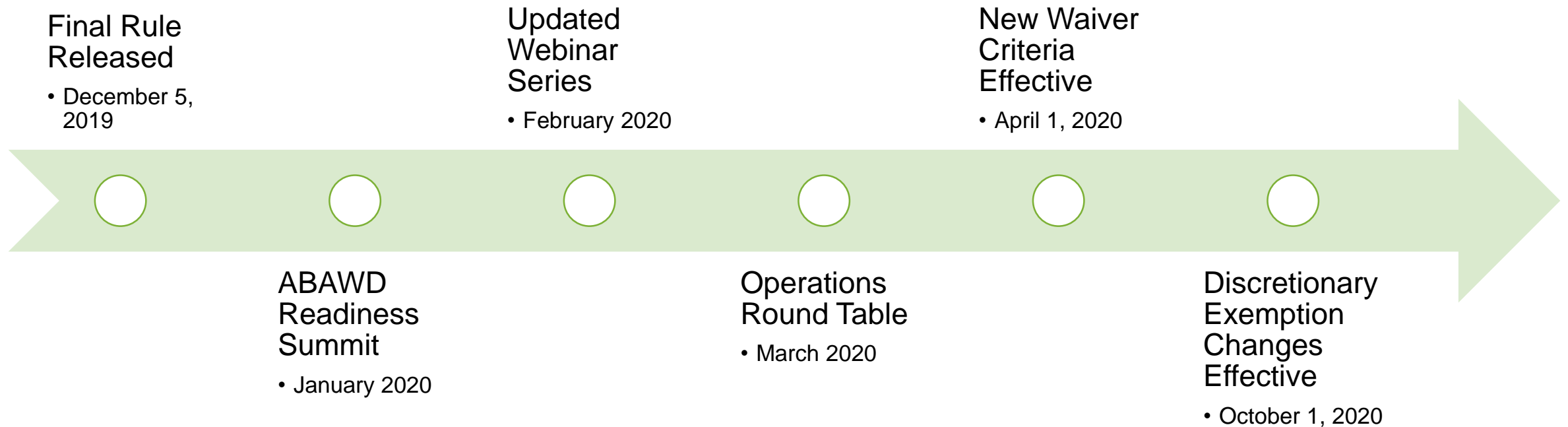
The Final Rule does not change:

- The 3 in 36-month time limit
- Exemption criteria
- The work requirement and ways to satisfy the work requirement
- Screening requirements
- Tracking requirements

ABAWD Time Limit Rules

- ABAWD eligibility is limited to 3 full, countable months within a 36-month period
- Applies to individuals that:
 - Are 18-49,
 - Have no dependents, and
 - Do not qualify for an exemption.
- Requires:
 - ABAWDs to work or participate in a qualifying work activity for 20 hours per week, averaged monthly; 20 hours per week averaged monthly means 80 hours per month.

Implementation Timeline Overview



ABAWD TIME LIMIT IMPLEMENTATION APRIL 2020

Framework of Solutions for Successful Implementation

1. Assess

- Identify potential ABAWDs
- Convene, educate, and empower outreach & community partners
- Conduct community outreach
- Screen for work registration and time limit exemptions
- Tools – Time Limit Exemption Screening Form

2. Engage

- Identify workforce partnership opportunities
- Convene, educate and empower workforce partners
- Leverage existing partnerships to expand available work activities (volunteer placements, workfare, etc.)
- Expand CalFresh Employment & Training
- Cross train eligibility staff to become familiar with community workforce resources

3. Support

- Maximize use of discretionary exemptions
- Promote work engagement or reevaluate for exemption from time limit before discontinuance
- Provide referrals to emergency food providers



The Statewide Workforce Service Delivery System

Where ABAWDs Can Connect to Employment Development Opportunities

PLUG-IN

WEBINAR:

ABAWD Engagement
February 26th, 2020
1pm-2:30pm



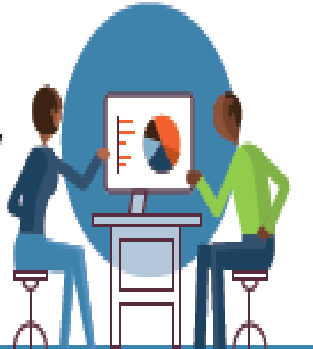
Statewide Efforts: Engagement in Workforce Development

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

The Four Titles of WIOA Each Authorize Different Programs:

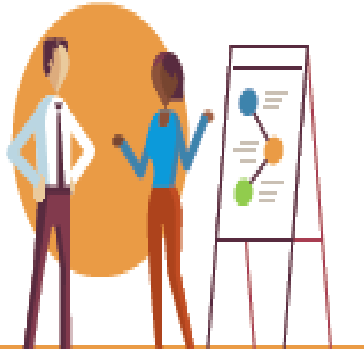
TITLE I

Helps jobseekers with career counseling, job search assistance, and job training.



TITLE II

Helps adults who lack basic skills. Services assist with improving reading, writing, math, and English proficiency; attaining a high school diploma or equivalent; and transition to employment or postsecondary education/training.



TITLE III

Helps jobseekers, including those getting unemployment benefits. Services assist jobseekers in finding work and help employers with recruiting.



TITLE IV

Helps individuals with disabilities maximize their employability, independence, and integration into the workplace and society. Programs offer comprehensive and individualized services including vocational rehabilitation, occupational training, and assistive technologies.



Statewide Efforts: Engagement in Workforce Development

- Engaging with Statewide WIOA Partners
 - California Workforce Development Board (CWDB)
 - Title I Services: Adult Low Income, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs
 - Services administered through the America's Job Centers of California (AJCCs)
 - Also responsible for AJCC Operations (engaging in workforce partnership and opportunities for collocation of services)
 - Employment Development Department (EDD)
 - Title III Services: Weigner-Peyser, Job Search services (CaJOBS, One-Stop & Workshops)
 - Services administered through the AJCC, core services
 - California Adult Education Program (CAEP)
 - Title II Services: Adult Education, vocational training, ESL, CTE, apprenticeship programs
 - School districts, adult schools, high schools, AJCC, community-based organizations, consortia
 - Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)
 - Title IV Services: Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Services administered through the AJCC

Statewide Efforts: Engagement in Workforce Development

- Planning Efforts
 - WIOA State Plan
 - Standing meetings with partners
- Policy Impact to Statewide Workforce System
 - Building expectations with partners
 - Educating partners on policy changes
 - Re-thinking strategy for providing services to help fight hunger
 - Shared messaging to ensure action is ready at local level

Local Efforts: Know your networks!

Identify your Regional Provider network

Local Workforce Development Board

Local AJCC's

Adult Education Consortium

CBO's and Social Enterprise Organizations

Apprenticeship/Pre-apprenticeship Programs

Most Workforce Boards hold monthly or quarterly provider/partner meetings to think through local challenges and service efforts.

How do I engage with WIOA Providers? Reach out to E&T!

You do NOT have to be an E&T county to access resources from our E&T regional TA teams. We can help you link up with local resources already identified by our state partners.

CalFresh E&T Regional Assignments Map



	Northern Region Ashley Stith Jennifer Fuls
	Bay Area/Central Coast Region Ebonye Davis Amy Soud
	Central Region Alyssa Stratton Michael Xiong
	Southern Region Kristi Duthler JoAnn Madrid-Schmit
	Fresh Success Counties Kristi Duthler Amy Soud

Resources

California Employment Development Department

https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/EDD_Services.htm#WorkforceServicesBranch

California Workforce Development Board

<https://cwdb.ca.gov/>

Each Local Board

https://cwdb.ca.gov/local_boards/local_workforce_investment_associations/

Adult Education Consortium Tracker

<https://lao.ca.gov/Education/WorkforceEd/Consortia>



The CalFresh Employment and Training Program (E&T)

Program Overview: What is CalFresh E&T?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps) is administered in California as CalFresh. Employment and Training, or E&T, is the workforce development arm of the CalFresh program.

Every State must offer its version of SNAP E&T, in California, the program is optional for counties. Counties are not only given the option to participate, but they are also given the flexibility to design programs to meet the needs of their local populations and economies.

Programs can consist of any number of allowable E&T components, target populations, service models, and funding sources. Let's take a look at these program elements.

Program Overview: CalFresh E&T Components & How they meet the work requirement

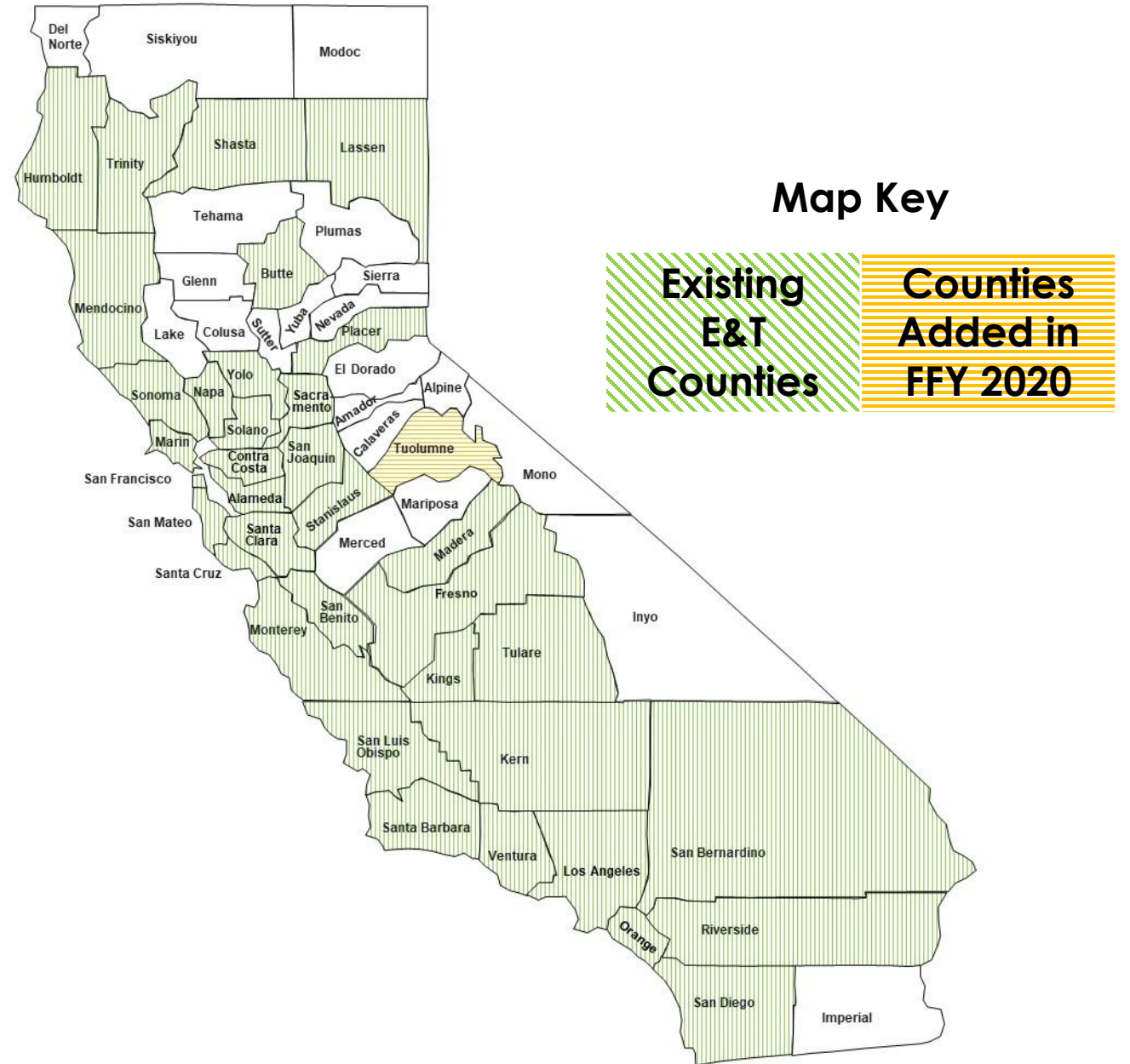
- Supervised Job Search*
- Work Experience
- Workfare
- On-the-Job Training (OJT)
- Subsidized Employment
- Self-Employment Training
- Education
- Job Retention



*Job Search may only be offered in conjunction with another component to meet the ABAWD work requirement

2020 E&T Counties

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Alameda | 14. Napa | 27. Santa Clara |
| 2. Butte | 15. Orange | 28. Santa Cruz |
| 3. Contra Costa | 16. Placer | 29. Shasta |
| 4. Fresno | 17. Riverside | 30. Solano |
| 5. Humboldt | 18. Sacramento | 31. Sonoma |
| 6. Kern | 19. San Benito | 32. Stanislaus |
| 7. Kings | 20. San Bernardino | 33. Trinity |
| 8. Lassen | 21. San Diego | 34. Tulare |
| 9. Los Angeles | 22. San Francisco | 35. Tuolumne |
| 10. Madera | 23. San Joaquin | 36. Ventura |
| 11. Marin | 24. San Luis Obispo | 37. Yolo |
| 12. Mendocino | 25. San Mateo | |
| 13. Monterey | 26. Santa Barbara | |



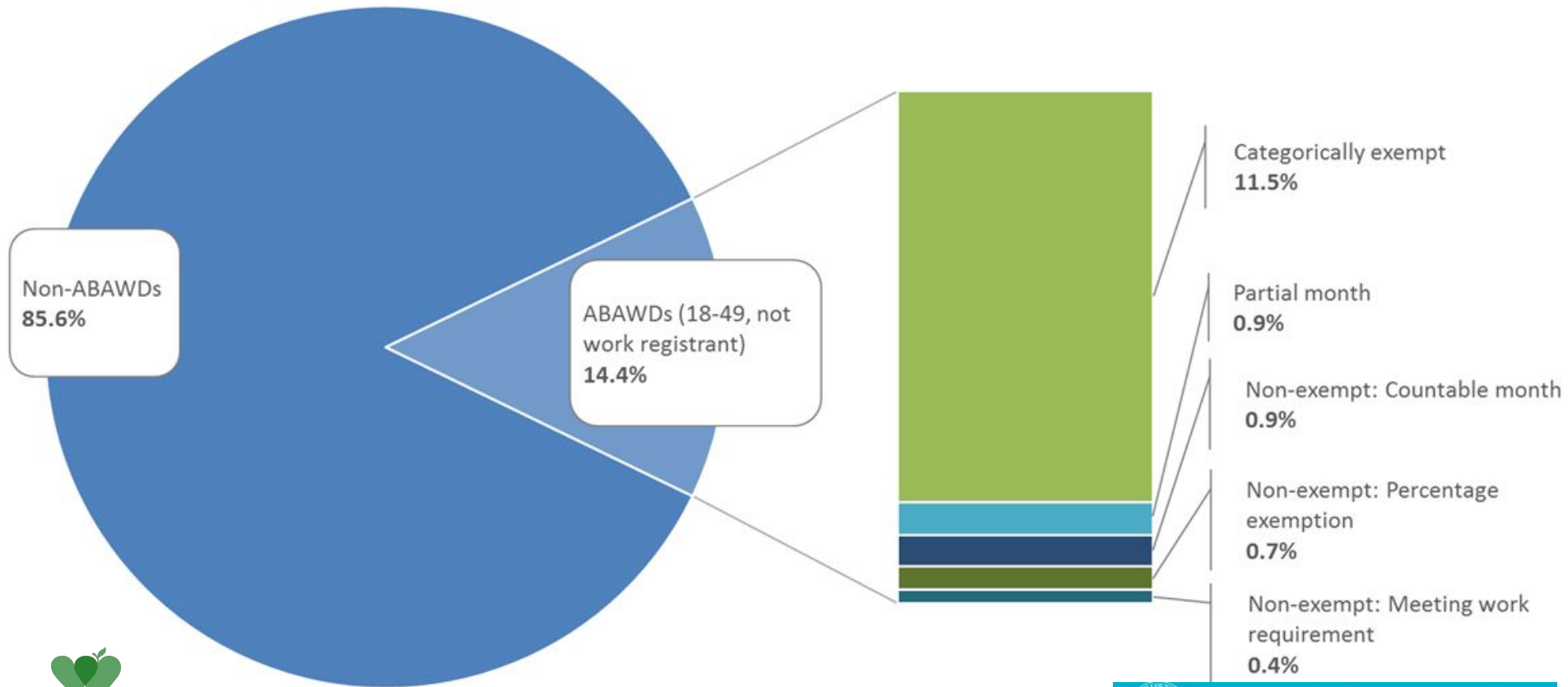
Thank you!



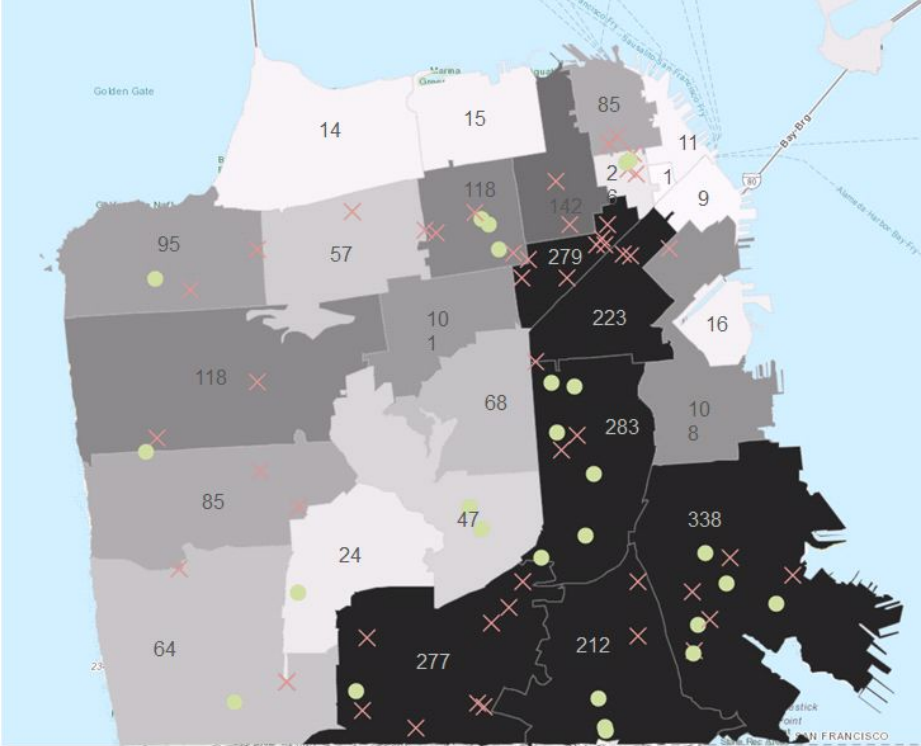
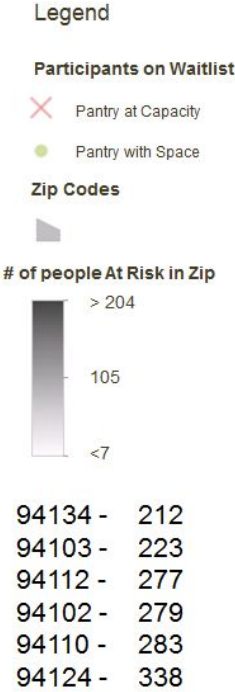
San Francisco ABAWD Implementation

Peri Weisberg, San Francisco Human Services Agency
Liliana Sandoval, San Francisco-Marin Food Bank

San Francisco's ABAWD population (Dec-2019)



Understanding the impact



Source: SF-Marin Food Bank, SF Human Resources Agency, updated August 2018

Training county staff

- 3-month pilot of screening and referral (to E&T) to inform training/process
- Wide-scale screening and referral began prior to September
- Specialty ABAWD eligibility unit
- Key learnings:
 - Understanding workforce services available to clients
 - Identifying data sources for exemptions

Training for community based organizations

- May 2018: Food Bank folded ABAWD rules into application assister trainings
- Jul 2018: California Association of Food Banks led interactive trainings for staff
- August 2018: Food Bank hosted a training on ABAWD rules for our network
- Key learnings:
 - Role playing is invaluable; staff need time to think through and practice how to sensitively ask screening questions in second languages
 - We do not need to overload clients with questions that may be answered through the regular CalFresh application process
 - Person first language is key (and takes practice)!

HSA communication strategy

- Accessible, plain-language collateral for clients sent via mail and given in person
 - Useful for partners and staff too!
- [Webpage](#) with key messaging and resources for clients and partners
- Community forum co-hosted with the Food Bank

Food Bank communication strategy

- CalFresh Forum brought CBOs and City agencies together
 - Support from Center of Budget and Policy Priorities was invaluable
 - Over 100 attendees from various sectors brought insight to the issue
 - Small group discussion questions brought folks into the process

Food Bank communication strategy

- Monthly check-ins between the Food Bank and HSA
 - Shared notes helped move such a multifaceted project forward
 - Shared Q&A google doc ensured questions wouldn't be asked multiple times
- Collateral!

Employment & training

- A whole new world: employment & training programs are complex! Education is needed in order to make effective referrals.
- “Warm up” handoffs to reduce barriers.
- Employment and training programs require thoughtful structure, incentives, and supports. ABAWD rules aren’t a substitute!
- Aligning General Assistance work requirements eases compliance for dual clients

Insights we gleaned

- Don't discourage any applicants - it's possible to identify an exemption for the vast majority of clients if you look hard enough.
- Contacting clients is hard, but make use of case documentation and other data sources to identify exemptions and work activities.
- Prepare for a learning curve when connecting clients with employment & training opportunities.
- Outreach staff should think about folding in screening for ABAWD time limits after all other elements of eligibility have been considered.
- Use this opportunity to work closely with and support your county!

Thank you!

Peri Weisberg

Senior Analyst, Planning Unit
San Francisco Human Services Agency

peri.weisberg@sfgov.org

Liliana Sandoval

Senior Program Manager, CalFresh Outreach
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank

lsandoval@sfmfoodbank.org



Alameda County ABAWD Implementation

A Snapshot of Resources



Resources for ABAWD Implementing Counties

Material

- Participants
- Service Providers
- County Staff

Messaging


- Participants
- County Staff
- Service Providers

Recommendations

- Lessons Learned


CalFresh Work Requirement Survey

- ▶ Participant survey to identify exemptions
 - ▶ Barcoded and sent to participants with RRR packet
 - ▶ Made available in SSA waiting rooms
- ▶ Developed in six-threshold languages
 - ▶ English * Spanish * Tagalog * Farsi * Chinese * Vietnamese
- ▶ Tool for community service providers/application assistors
 - ▶ ACCFB helps to screen applicants and submits surveys
 - ▶ 2019
 - ▶ November: 167
 - ▶ December: 130
 - ▶ December: 69

CalFresh Work Requirement Survey 

Effective September 1, 2019 some CalFresh recipients in Alameda County will be required to meet federal work requirements. The rules apply to anyone receiving CalFresh between the ages of 18-49 that does not have a child living in the home. This survey will help determine if you are exempt from meeting the requirements or need to participate in approved work activities to continue receiving CalFresh benefits without a time limit.

Complete the survey below to help the Social Services Agency (SSA) determine your future benefits.
You may need to provide verification or give your worker additional information.

 Name: _____ Case Number (if known): _____
Last four digits of Social Security Number: _____

Please tell us if you are already working or in an activity that could meet the ABAWD work requirement.

<input type="checkbox"/> I am working at least 20 hours per week or 80 hour per month (this includes self-employment). Employer Name: _____ Number of Hours Working: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I am doing community service activities or volunteer work at least 80 hours per month. Organization Name: _____ Number of Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am participating in employment training activities Program Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> I am doing a combination of the above activities. (complete all boxes that apply and list number of hours)

You may be exempt from meeting work requirements if any of the following selections apply to you. (Select all boxes that apply).

<input type="checkbox"/> I have a physical, mental or emotional disability, or other personal issue that stops me from working at least 80 hours on average per month.	<input type="checkbox"/> I go to school or training at least half time.
<input type="checkbox"/> I care for a dependent child under the age of 8 (Does not need to live with you or be your child)	<input type="checkbox"/> I live with a child under age 18. (The child must be on your CalFresh case)
<input type="checkbox"/> I am caring for a person with a disability. (The person does not need to live with you)	<input type="checkbox"/> I am pregnant (any stage of pregnancy). Your due date (if known): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am receiving or have applied for unemployment benefits.	<input type="checkbox"/> I am receiving or have applied for disability benefits from any source.
<input type="checkbox"/> I am in a drug or alcohol abuse treatment program, or I am struggling with a substance abuse problem.	<input type="checkbox"/> I am currently homeless and unable to meet my needs.
	<input type="checkbox"/> I am escaping domestic violence.

Client Signature: _____ Date: _____

Form 63-63 (7/2019)

ABAWD Exemption Screening Worksheet

- ▶ Tool for County Eligibility Staff
- ▶ Begin Engagement with Client
 - ▶ Gets staff comfortable with screening
 - ▶ Learn more information about the client
 - ▶ May already have documentation in the case record
- ▶ Quickly Screen for Work Requirements and Exemptions
 - ▶ Obviously Unfit to Work Indicators
 - ▶ CalFresh Employment & Training
 - ▶ Discretionary Exemptions

Individual Name: _____ Case Number: _____ Date: _____

CalFresh Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) Worksheet

STEP 1: Is the individual subject to the ABAWD time limit?

Is the individual between the ages of 18 – 49 and in a CalFresh household where there are no dependent children under the age of 18? YES NO

If YES, the individual is subject to the ABAWD time limit and must meet work requirements or an exemption to be eligible for CalFresh. Proceed to STEP 2.
If NO, the individual is not subject to the ABAWD time limit. STOP HERE

STEP 2: Does the individual meet the ABAWD work requirement? (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Working or participating in allowable "work activities" for an average of 80 hours a month. (Select all that apply) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Employed or Self-Employed <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind work in exchange for goods or services <input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled or participating in a CalFresh Employment & Training (E&T) program, educational program, vocational training, or job searching. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Participating and complying with the Workfare Program Total Benefit Amount <input type="text"/> + Highest Local Minimum Wage <input type="text"/> = # of Workfare Hours <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Participating in an Office of Refugee Resettlement Training Program <input type="checkbox"/>
---	--

If any one of the above are checked, the individual meets either the ABAWD work requirement and will not be subject to the time limit as long as he/she continues to meet the requirement or exemption. **Review or request any necessary verification.**

If none of the above are checked, PROCEED TO STEP 3.

STEP 3: Does the individual meet an ABAWD exemption? (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Applied/receiving temporary or permanent, public or private, disability benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Applied/receiving Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) <input type="checkbox"/> Responsible for the care of an incapacitated person or a child under the age of 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant, at any stage <input type="checkbox"/> Attending an institution of higher education at least half-time (individuals still must meet student CalFresh Eligibility rules)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medically certified as unable to work <input type="checkbox"/> Attending a drug or alcohol treatment program <input type="checkbox"/> Employed or Self-Employed and earning more than \$217.50 per week on average. Average Weekly Income <input type="text"/>
---	--

If any one of the above are checked, the individual meets an exemption and will not be subject to the time limit if they continue to meet the requirement or exemption. **Review or request any necessary verification.**

If none of the above exemptions are applicable, screen for potential **obviously unfit to work** indicators that may qualify the client for an exemption if associated with a mental or physical health condition. PROCEED TO STEP 3B.

ABAWD Exemption Verification Reference Chart



- ▶ Tool for County Staff
- ▶ Quick “Go To” Resource
- ▶ User-Friendly
- ▶ Outlines Exemption Criteria
- ▶ Lists Acceptable Verification Sources

ABAWD Exemption Verification Reference Chart	
Exemption Criteria	Verification
1 Residing in a CalFresh household with a member under age 18	None: Information is known to county.
2 Pregnant	Client Statement. If questionable, request a written or verbal statement from medical personnel.
Exempt from CalFresh Work Registration	
a. Under 16 or reached 60th birthday	None: Information is known to county
b. Physically or mentally unfit for work.	Receipt of Social Security Disability, State Disability Insurance (SDI), or Worker's Compensation. Obvious physical evidence (i.e., hospitalized, bedfast, chairbound, requiring an assistive medical appliance, or a broken limb set in a cast). A signed written statement from the client's doctor including a licensed physician, psychologist or chiropractor. This statement must say that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The client is unable to work, and • The length of the incapacity
c. Caretaker for child under 6 or incapacitated person.	For purposes of the incapacity exemption, an individual is considered “responsible” for the care of an incapacitated person, when the care precludes employment of at least 30 hours per week. Only one household member may be exempt to care for children or an incapacitated adult in the home. A doctor's statement should be requested to verify the incapacity and identify the number of hours for which care is needed if at all questionable
d. Receives/pending UIB and registered for work as part of UIB process	Confirmation number of application submitted for UIB, Proof of receiving UIB benefits.
e. Participant in a drug addiction or alcoholic rehabilitation facility/program.	The program must be conducted by a private nonprofit organization or institution or a publicly operated community mental health center. Statement from the facility must indicate that the individual's participation in the program shall preclude employment of at least 30 hours per week. This may or may not be a residential program. Note: Participation in Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon or methadone maintenance programs usually does not preclude employment. The participant would not then be exempt.
f. Employed/self-employed at least 30 hours a week or has earnings equal to federal minimum wage for 30 hours a week.	Wage stubs, tax returns, etc. No one type of verification should be required. Employment must be paid with weekly gross income being at or exceeding \$217.50.
g. Student enrolled at least half-time in high school/training program.	Proof of enrollment in school for at least half time or more.

Additional Resource-Messaging

- ▶ ABAWD Information Notice
 - ▶ ABAWD Implementation Date Reminder
 - ▶ Courtesy Notice
 - ▶ Audience-Friendly
 - ▶ Useful Information
 - ▶ Sent Two Months Before Implementation*

*This is one of four notices that was sent to households

ABAWD INFORMATION	 
Who is an ABAWD? An ABAWD is an able-bodied individual between the ages of 18 and 49 who has no dependents and is not disabled.	CalFresh Three-Month Time Limit for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) Starts September 1, 2019.
What is the CalFresh time limit? ABAWDs can get CalFresh for up to 3 months in 3 years if they do not meet certain work requirements. This is called the CalFresh time limit. If you are an ABAWD and are not working or excused from work, you can only receive CalFresh for up to 3 months starting September 1, 2019.	Effective September 1, 2019, some CalFresh recipients who are Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) living in Alameda County will get CalFresh benefits for a maximum of 3 months in a 3-year period unless they are excused or participating in an approved work activity. You are receiving this notice because you or one of your household members has been identified as an ABAWD.
Who may be affected by the time limit? Individuals between the ages of 18-49 who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not live in the household with a child under age 18;• Do not work for an average of 20 hours per week (80 hours per month);• Are not excused from the work requirement.	WE CAN HELP! Alameda County has a CalFresh Employment and Training Program that can assist you in meeting the ABAWD work requirements in order for you to obtain benefits beyond the 3 month limit. Our Employment and Training program has onsite job readiness courses that can help you with job readiness skills, job search and employment retention!
How can I keep my CalFresh if I am an ABAWD and I am not excused from the work requirement? You can get CalFresh for more than 3 months starting September 1, 2019 if you show proof that for at least an average of 80 hours per month, you are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working, including self-employment;• Doing volunteer work, community service, or in-kind work (working in exchange for goods or services instead of money);• Participating in CalFresh Employment & Training (CFET) Program;• Participating in other training programs, or• Doing a combination of any of the above.	Am I Excused? You may be excused from the work requirement if you are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physically or mentally unable to work 80 hours per month;• Applying for or getting disability benefits (including veterans disability benefits);• Applying for or getting unemployment insurance benefits;• Going to college at least half time and meeting CalFresh student eligibility;• Pregnant;• Caring for a child under age 6 or caring for a sick or injured person who will need help for more than 30 days;• Residing in a household where there is household member under 18 years of age• Participating in an Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) training program at least half time In order to learn more about ABAWD, review the left side of this letter. If you need additional information on this matter please visit www.alameda-socialservices.org/public/services/food_assistance/CalFreshUpdates.cfm or contact our Customer Service Call Center at 510-263-2420, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Messaging to Your Audience

- ▶ Consider implementation timeline when developing participant flyers
 - ▶ Look and feel different from DSS notices

- ▶ Info Calls
 - ▶ Reach a wide audience in short amount of time
 - ▶ A way to offer reassurance and specific actions to be taken -quick messaging
 - ▶ A 1.90% transfer rate is “very good” in industry average

ABAWD Champaign	November
Total Calls	3,467
Live Calls (Answered)	1,831
Call Transfer (Press #1 to repeat msg)	35
Transfer Rate	1.90%

ABAWD Info Session for Your Community Service Providers



- ▶ Offers opportunity to bring service providers who work with population to come together in a learning environment
- ▶ Practice hands-on screening using worksheets
- ▶ Hear feedback on community trends and challenges
- ▶ Training tools are available!
- ▶ Importance of county staff presence is crucial

CalFresh Employment & Training

- ▶ Great Opportunity for ABAWDS
 - ▶ Expand Employment Opportunities
 - ▶ Referrals to Educational Programs/Courses
 - ▶ Learn a Skill or a Trade
 - ▶ Ongoing Job and Career Counseling
 - ▶ Become More Self-Sufficient
 - ▶ Maintain CalFresh Eligibility
 - ▶ Supportive Services Available

<p>What Happens If You Stop Participating?</p> <p>There are no penalties if you decide to stop participating. You will continue to receive the entire amount of your General Assistance and/or CalFresh benefits if you are already receiving them, but only for as long as you are eligible.</p> <p>However, we will close your CalFresh Employment & Training case and you will not be allowed to participate again until the next time you become eligible for GA or CalFresh benefits.</p>	<p>Alameda County Social Services Agency</p> <p>CalFresh Employment and Training Program</p> <p>Don't miss out on this great opportunity!</p> <p>CalFresh Employment and Training Program</p>	
	<p>Alameda County Social Services Agency</p>	<p>Need Assistance Finding a Job?</p>
<p>“What Do I Need To Do Next?”</p> <p>First you will be interviewed by a Social Worker or Eligibility Services Technician and given an opportunity to participate. If you choose to participate, you will attend an Orientation class where you will receive more information about the program and be assigned to your first activity.</p>	<p>Our Mission</p> <p>To promote the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities.</p> <p>Our Core Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect• Integrity• Customer Service• Initiative• Responsibility <p>We're Here to Help!</p> <p>(510) 263-2420 or (888) 999-4772 www.AlamedaSocialServices.org</p> <p>Form 63-61 (10/18)</p>	

Recommendations

- ▶ Importance of early engagement with client population is critical - begin screening for exemptions, early
 - ▶ Biggest Challenge = To Ensure ABAWD data accurately reflected the number of ABAWDS in Alameda County
- ▶ Use sample scripts to help guide eligibility staff
 - ▶ Screening sheets/charts alleviate some of the guesswork
- ▶ Work closely with your trainers to ensure training material aligns with current policy
 - ▶ Policy staff should review training material before it is presented to staff
 - ▶ Sit in on some of the training sessions and provide feedback if needed
- ▶ Keep in mind the importance of collaborating with community agencies—community messengers
- ▶ Communication with public
 - ▶ Use clear and accurate language
 - ▶ Stay on top of media stories—they don't always message change accurately - be prepared to respond
 - ▶ If unsure, don't message it!

Thank you!

Rashon Seldon

CalFresh Program Specialist

Alameda County Social Services Agency

rseldon@acgov.org

Liz Gomez

Director of Client Services

Alameda County Community Food Bank

egomez@accfb.org