

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



July 7, 2003

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-38-03

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: REVISED 15 PERCENT ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWD) EXEMPTION ALLOCATION FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2003 AND CRITERIA FOR USE OF THE EXEMPTION

REFERENCE: ACL 00-41, ACIN I-05-03

The purpose of this notice is to provide counties with additional average monthly figures for the 15 percent ABAWD food stamp work requirement exemptions for FFY 2003. The federal Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) based this revised allocation on the accumulative roll-over of 15 percent exemptions for California through 2002. As provided under the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, states may exempt up to 15 percent of their nonexempt ABAWD population if individuals are at risk of losing their eligibility to food stamps due to not meeting the ABAWD work requirement. To the maximum extent possible, counties are encouraged to utilize the 15 percent exemptions available for their ABAWD population. Maintaining food stamp eligibility for ABAWDs will help to ease potential financial strain on local food banks and other local charitable organizations.

As stated in ACIN I-05-03, dated January 28, 2003, California's initial FFY 2003 allocation of 15 percent ABAWD exemptions was 7,635, averaged monthly, between January 1, 2003 and September 30, 2003 (i.e., annual allocation of 68,715 exemption months). As explained in Attachment I, FNS has now adjusted the FFY 2003 allocation to include the FFY 2002 carryover. California's adjusted share is 48,016 monthly (i.e., annual allocation of 576,188 exemption months). Therefore, the number of remaining exemptions that California has left to utilize monthly is 40,381 (i.e., 507,473 annually). The remaining exemptions represent the adjusted allocation minus the initial allocation.

The allotment of 15 percent ABAWD exemptions for each county is based on its share of the statewide non-assistance food stamp caseload for calendar year 2001. Attachment II displays the remaining county-by-county allocation of average monthly ABAWD exemptions for FFY 2003. Each county has the flexibility to determine the most efficient and effective manner for use of its exemptions. The county can vary the number of

Page Two

exemptions utilized from month to month, as needed. For example, a county that receives an annual allocation of 1,200 exemption months for the federal fiscal year may choose to spread them out evenly over the 12-month period, reserve them for months in which high unemployment is expected, or a variation of the two methodologies to achieve maximum benefit for their ABAWD population.

Annual usage of the 15 percent ABAWD exemptions is measured on a statewide basis. These exemptions are reported on line 10 of the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program, Quarterly ABAWDs Statistical and Expenditure Report (STAT 46). Although, under- or over-utilization of the exemptions by individual counties could potentially balance out statewide, if the total number of exemptions used by the counties exceeds the State's annual allocation, the excess usage is offset against the State's exemption allocation in the next federal fiscal year. There is no financial penalty to the State or the counties for under- or over-utilizing the 15 percent exemption.

Food Stamp Sanctions and the 15 Percent Exemption

As a reminder, regulations in Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Sections 63-410.53 and 63-407.53 specify that when an individual receives a food stamp sanction for voluntarily quitting a job or failing to comply with an FSET assignment, the individual may not reestablish eligibility until the sanction is cured, or the person qualifies for one of the food stamp work registration exemptions at MPP Section 63-407.21. This means that the 15 percent exemption cannot be granted until the sanction is cured.

If you have any questions regarding the exemption allocations described in this notice, please contact Tony Pyara at (916) 657-2630 or by e-mail at tony.pyara@dss.ca.gov.

For questions regarding the completion of the STAT 46 (Food Stamp and Training Program Quarterly ABAWDs Statistical and Expenditure Report), please call Juliet Mende at (916) 651-8269.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By
Charr Lee Metsker on 7/7/03***

CHARR LEE METSKER, Chief
Employment and Eligibility Branch

Attachments

c: CWDA
CSAC

<u>STATE</u>	<u>FY03 + Carry Over</u>	
	<u>MONTHLY</u>	<u>ANNUAL</u>
Alabama	8,532	102,386
Alaska*	677	8,122
Arizona*	0	0
Arkansas	4,220	50,635
California	48,016	576,188
Colorado *	1,972	23,661
Connecticut	2,412	28,944
Delaware*	756	9,072
Dist. of Col.	0	0
Florida	1,312	15,739
Georgia	11,160	133,916
Guam	121	1,452
Hawaii	2,489	29,863
Idaho*	1,341	16,094
Illinois	1,449	17,387
Indiana*	6,242	74,899
Iowa	305	3,662
Kansas*	272	3,263
Kentucky	5,139	61,671
Louisiana*	868	10,411
Maine	1,654	19,844
Maryland	1,667	19,998
Massachusetts	4,291	51,492
Michigan	34,227	410,727
Minnesota	2,565	30,775
Mississippi	7,905	94,863
Missouri	6,858	82,292
Montana	1,468	17,616
Nebraska	1,373	16,475
Nevada*	1,456	17,467
New Hampshire	124	1,491
New Jersey	3,825	45,900
New Mexico	1,824	21,888
New York	24,148	289,771
North Carolina	8,348	100,170
North Dakota	846	10,152
Ohio*	17,491	209,886
Oklahoma*	8,154	97,848
Oregon*	5,057	60,688
Pennsylvania	8,581	102,977
Rhode Island	607	7,284

South Carolina*	2,471	29,647
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<i>STATE</i>	<u>MONTHLYANNUAL</u>	
South Dakota	508	6,101
Tennessee*	14,847	178,159
Texas*	26,368	316,420
Utah*	1,007	12,080
Vermont	1,638	19,656
Virginia	11,030	132,360
Virgin Islands	197	2,364
Washington*	2,674	32,090
West Virginia	3,239	38,871
Wisconsin*	4,284	51,402
Wyoming	844	10,128

*States with Adjusted ABAWDS exemptions. Arizona has zero exemptions because it used more ABAWDS slots in FY2002 than originally allotted.

FFY 2003 ALLOCATION OF 15% EXEMPTIONS FOR
ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS

COUNTIES	NAFS Caseload	% to Total	Additional 15% ABAWD Exemptions 40,381
ALAMEDA	103,257	0.023366	944
ALPINE	217	0.000049	2
AMADOR	3,315	0.000750	30
BUTTE	51,515	0.011657	471
CALAVERAS	6,563	0.001485	60
COLUSA	4,411	0.000998	40
CONTRA COSTA	49,216	0.011137	450
DEL NORTE	12,267	0.002776	112
EL DORADO	15,220	0.003444	139
FRESNO	177,962	0.040270	1,626
GLENN	7,056	0.001597	64
HUMBOLDT	38,134	0.008629	348
IMPERIAL	56,301	0.012740	514
INYO	3,917	0.000886	36
KERN	159,628	0.036122	1,459
KINGS	35,510	0.008035	324
LAKE	15,524	0.003513	142
LASSEN	5,345	0.001209	49
LOS ANGELES	1,802,137	0.407798	16,465
MADERA	40,000	0.009051	366
MARIN	14,836	0.003357	136
MARIPOSA	3,175	0.000718	29
MENDOCINO	22,074	0.004995	202
MERCED	40,385	0.009139	369
MODOC	2,725	0.000617	25
MONO	1,407	0.000318	13
MONTEREY	55,738	0.012613	509
NAPA	8,546	0.001934	78
NEVADA	7,304	0.001653	67
ORANGE	154,253	0.034905	1,410
PLACER	11,279	0.002552	103
PLUMAS	2,808	0.000635	26
RIVERSIDE	115,659	0.026172	1,057
SACRAMENTO	170,996	0.038694	1,563
SAN BENITO	5,914	0.001338	54
SAN BERNARDINO	240,444	0.054409	2,197
SAN DIEGO	160,178	0.036246	1,464
SAN FRANCISCO	140,368	0.031763	1,283
SAN JOAQUIN	100,493	0.022740	918
SAN LUIS OBISPO	18,076	0.004090	165
SAN MATEO	14,374	0.003253	131
SANTA BARBARA	34,181	0.007735	312
SANTA CLARA	90,461	0.020470	827
SANTA CRUZ	20,293	0.004592	185
SHASTA	43,882	0.009930	401
SIERRA	432	0.000098	4
SISKIYOU	11,779	0.002665	108
SOLANO	23,180	0.005245	212
SONOMA	24,529	0.005551	224
STANISLAUS	57,280	0.012962	523
SUTTER	15,523	0.003513	142
TEHAMA	16,047	0.003631	147
TRINITY	3,837	0.000868	35
TULARE	92,164	0.020855	842
TUOLUMNE	8,408	0.001903	77
VENTURA	60,808	0.013760	556
YOLO	16,843	0.003811	154
YUBA	21,019	0.004756	192
TOTAL	4,419,193	1.000000	40,381