DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL
[ ] State Law Change
[ ] Federal Law or Regulation Change
[ ] Court Order
[ ] Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
[X] Initiated by CDSS

September 22, 2006

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-72-06

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2006 15 PERCENT EXEMPTION ALLOCATIONS FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS (ABAWDs)

The purpose of this letter is to provide counties with the final allocation of the ABAWD 15 percent exemptions for FFY 2006. 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 August 30, 2006, the final allocation was released by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) via Administrative Notice 06-22. FNS allocates a designated number of exemptions to California and these exemptions are distributed to counties based on non-assistance caseload size.

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 an approved 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 an individual a 15 percent exemption. The 15 percent exemption provides counties with the ability to exempt those individuals who, due to circumstances, are unable to satisfy the ABAWD work requirement.

The effective date of this allocation is October 1, 2006. California is granted 58,708 15 percent exemption case-months for use in assisting at risk ABAWDs. This is a monthly figure; the annual authorized number of case-month exemptions for California is 58,708 multiplied by 12 or 704,495. The allocation includes all of the unused exemption case-months carried over from FFY 2005. The attachment displays the FFY 2006 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 three-month time limit. There are19 counties that are covered by an ABAWD waiver for all of FFY 2006. These 19 ABAWD waiver counties did not receive an allocation of the FFY 2006 15 percent exemptions. The 19 counties are:
Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, Del Norte, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, San Francisco, San Joaquin, Santa Cruz, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Trinity, and Tulare.

Counties with an ABAWD waiver that began May 1, 2006, should not use the 15 percent ABAWD exemption after the May 1 effective date. These 18 counties are: Alameda, Santa Clara, Colusa, Humboldt, Imperial, Mariposa, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Shasta, Sierra, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba.

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 of the Food Stamp Program Work Registrant, ABAWDs, and FSET Program Caseload Report, (STAT 47) form. 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 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, ABAWDs receiving the 15 percent exemption or in a waiver county should still be counted 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. 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.

Sincerely,

RICHTON YEE, Chief
Food Stamp Branch

Attachment

Attachment

County	Intake & Continuing Avg. Monthly Caseload (DFA 296) Most Current 12 Months	% to Total	704,495 FFY 2006 Total Exemption Months Per County
ALAMEDA	13,224	3.38%	23,787
ALPINE	0	0.00%	0
AMADOR	426	0.11%	766
BUTTE	0	0.00%	0
CALAVERAS	0	0.00%	0
COLUSA	446	0.11%	802
CONTRA COSTA	7,432	1.90%	13,368
DEL NORTE	0	0.00%	0
EL DORADO	1,608	0.41%	2,891
FRESNO	0	0.00%	0
GLENN	0	0.00%	0
HUMBOLDT	4,001	1.02%	7,196
IMPERIAL	5,936	1.52%	10,676
INYO	367	0.09%	660
KERN	0	0.00%	0
KINGS	0	0.00%	0
LAKE	1,518	0.39%	2,731
LASSEN	563	0.14%	1,013
LOS ANGELES	205,467	52.46%	369,575
MADERA	0	0.00%	0
MARIN	2,236	0.57%	4,021
MARIPOSA	303	0.08%	545
MENDOCINO	0	0.00%	0
MERCED	0	0.00%	0
MODOC	254	0.06%	457
MONO	147	0.04%	264
MONTEREY	0	0.00%	0
NAPA	1,009	0.26%	1,814
NEVADA	976	0.25%	1,756
ORANGE	22,486	5.74%	40,446
PLACER	1,728	0.44%	3,108
PLUMAS	241	0.06%	433
RIVERSIDE	5,986	1.53%	10,767
SACRAMENTO	26,103	6.66%	46,952
SAN BENITO	952	0.24%	1,712
SAN BERNARDINO	7,931	2.02%	14,266
SAN DIEGO	19,420	4.96%	34,931
SAN FRANCISCO	0	0.00%	0
SAN JOAQUIN	0	0.00%	0
SAN LUIS OBISPO	2,435	0.62%	4,380
SAN MATEO	3,661	0.93%	6,585
SANTA BARBARA	4,929	1.26%	8,866
SANTA CLARA	20,697	5.28%	37,227
SANTA CRUZ	0	0.00%	0
SHASTA	4,611	1.18%	8,294
SIERRA	50	0.01%	89
SISKIYOU	0	0.00%	0
SOLANO	4,339	1.11%	7,804
SONOMA	4,811	1.23%	8,654
STANISLAUS	0	0.00%	0

SUTTER	1,751	0.45%	3,150
TEHAMA	1,671	0.43%	3,005
TRINITY	0	0.00%	0
TULARE	0	0.00%	0
TUOLUMNE	845	0.22%	1,520
VENTURA	6,707	1.71%	12,064
YOLO	2,114	0.54%	3,802
YUBA	2,288	0.58%	4,115
TOTALS	**391,667**	**100.00%**	**704,495**