



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

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

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

May 1, 2012

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-22-12

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

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

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
 ALL COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
 ALL CALFRESH PROGRAM SPECIALISTS
 ALL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES PROGRAMS MANAGERS
 ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM MANAGERS
 ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM COORDINATORS
 ALL COUNTY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: CALFRESH FOR FOSTER YOUTH

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 09-25, ASSEMBLY BILL (AB) 12 (CHAPTER 559, STATUTES OF 2010)

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) is to stress to counties the importance of providing foster youth who are exiting Foster Care (FC) with the opportunity to apply for and participate in CalFresh. As stated in ACL 09-25, many foster youths exit their foster home or facility with little or no income or assets and without having accessed CalFresh benefits to which they may be entitled. During the difficult transition from dependency to independent living it is critical that this vulnerable population be afforded every opportunity to receive the nutritional assistance CalFresh can provide.

Prior to the release of ACL 09-25, fewer than five percent of youths aging out of foster care were applying for CalFresh benefits (SOC 405E Exit Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care Quarterly Statistical Report). Since the release of the ACL, that percentage has increased to approximately 22 percent statewide (see attached chart). Although we are pleased to see progress, there is still room for further improvement, especially in counties below the state average. Therefore, we strongly encourage counties to revisit ACL 09-25 and to continue to strengthen efforts to provide youths aging out of foster care with information regarding CalFresh and with the opportunity to apply for CalFresh **before** they exit care. The increase in applications subsequent to

the release of the ACL clearly demonstrates the efficacy of this effort. The development of a collaborative process involving both CalFresh and Child Welfare Services staff is critical, and counties are encouraged to communicate with those counties reflecting a higher success rate to identify and incorporate best practices and procedures (please refer to the attachment).

Again, it is critical that counties maintain a commitment and continue their role as the provider of information regarding CalFresh benefits to foster youth exiting care. This is an extremely vulnerable population, and while some may benefit from transitional housing opportunities or other available assistance programs, many face an uncertain and unstable future, including homelessness and increased health risks. Providing them with the opportunity to receive nutritional security can be an important factor in mitigating these risks.

If you have any questions, please contact Jaeda Rios of the CalFresh Policy Bureau, at (916) 654-5709 or via e-mail at jaeda.rios@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

TODD BLAND
Deputy Director
Welfare to Work Division

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

	Youth Whose Whereabouts Known in SFY 2010/11	Youth Who Have Applied for CalFresh in SFY 2010/11	% of Youth Who Applied for CalFresh
Statewide	3,463	756	21.8%
Alameda	175	33	18.9%
Alpine	0	0	0.0%
Amador	4	3	75.0%
Butte	29	5	17.2%
Calaveras	6	2	33.3%
Colusa	1	1	0.0%
Contra Costa	76	22	28.9%
Del Norte	5	2	40.0%
El Dorado	21	4	19.0%
Fresno	66	5	7.6%
Glenn	3	1	33.3%
Humboldt	13	2	15.4%
Imperial	23	19	82.6%
Inyo	3	0	0.0%
Kern	160	72	45.0%
Kings	14	11	78.6%
Lake	12	5	41.7%
Lassen	25	0	0.0%
Los Angeles	730	50	6.8%
Madera	17	7	41.2%
Marin	11	1	9.1%
Mariposa	4	3	75.0%
Mendocino	10	3	30.0%
Merced	39	9	23.1%
Modoc	0	0	0.0%
Mono	1	0	0.0%
Monterey	23	5	21.7%
Napa	11	2	18.2%
Nevada	10	0	0.0%
Orange	132	9	6.8%
Placer	18	1	5.6%
Plumas	5	0	0.0%
Riverside	410	65	15.9%
Sacramento	261	19	7.3%
San Benito	4	1	25.0%
San Bernardino	239	58	24.3%
San Diego	255	131	51.4%
San Francisco	54	1	1.9%
San Joaquin	73	31	42.5%
San Luis Obispo	47	1	2.1%
San Mateo	55	9	16.4%
Santa Barbara	23	7	30.4%
Santa Clara	102	38	37.3%
Santa Cruz	27	8	29.6%
Shasta	21	11	52.4%
Sierra	0	0	0.0%
Siskiyou	7	4	57.1%
Solano	15	4	26.7%
Sonoma	33	8	24.2%
Stanislaus	55	26	47.3%
Sutter	4	1	25.0%
Tehama	10	7	70.0%
Trinity	4	1	25.0%
Tulare	46	10	21.7%
Tuolumne	5	2	40.0%
Ventura	36	25	69.4%
Yolo	18	10	55.6%
Yuba	12	1	8.3%

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/entres/getinfo/acl/2009/09-25.pdf>