

**County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
CalFresh Program Guide**

Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents Work Program (ABAWDs)

Number
63-904

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Revision Date:

08/01/2021

Background:

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 limits the receipt of CalFresh benefits to 3 months in a 3 year period for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) who are not complying with the work requirements or do not meet an exemption as defined in this section.

Purpose:

The purpose of this section is to describe the ABAWD work requirements and related information. Effective October 1, 2008, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) approved California for a statewide waiver of the ABAWD work requirements. Waivers are usually granted for one year and may be extended if certain requirements are met. FNS has extended the waiver for eligible counties in the state of California, which includes San Diego. The waiver has been approved from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This section has been revised to include the latest waiver extension approval information and applicable dates.

Policy:

Although there is currently a waiver, ABAWD recipients must be tracked for statistical purposes. Staff must register all non-exempt CalFresh recipients for Employment and Training (E&T) services. Staff must record whether the customer meets an ABAWD exemption in the case record. Refer to How To 333 for guidance on registering participants and CFPG Section 63-901 for information on E&T services.

1. **ABAWD Work Requirements:**

ABAWD individuals must meet the following work requirements:

- Working 20 hours per week or an average of 80 hours or more per month in suitable employment (hours worked for in-kind income will count toward the 20 hours per week if it is verified by the employer)
- Participating in Work Experience each month
- Participating in an approved work program for 80 hours or more per month. Approved work programs include:
 - A program under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
 - A program under Section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974
 - A CalFresh E&T or comparable program (job search activities do not count)
 - Community Service or Volunteer Work

2. **ABAWD Exemptions:**

Individuals are exempt from the ABAWD work requirements if they meet any of the following criteria:

- Under 18 years of age
- 50 years of age or older
- Reside in a CalFresh household with a household member under the age of 18
- Medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment for one of the following reasons:
 - Applied/receive temporary or permanent public or private disability benefits
 - Unfit for work based on the staff's observation (i.e., chronic homelessness, alcohol or drug addiction, domestic violence)
- Determined physically or mentally unfit to work by medical or other appropriate personnel
- Pregnant

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- Participating in an Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) training program for at least half time
- Exempt from CalFresh work registration requirements (See 63-901.3 for a list of E&T exemptions)

Other Program Impacts:

No Impact

References:

All County Information Notices (ACIN) I-11-06, I-06-07, I-07-08, I-80-08, I-37-09, I-54-10, I-64-11, I-27-12, I-54-13, I-49-14, I-11-16 and I-12-17

All County Letters (ACL) 18-08, 18-97, 19-60, 19-93, 19-96, and ACL 21-67

MPP 63-410

CFR 273.24(d)(g)

PRWORA 1996

Sunset Date:

This policy will be reviewed for continuance on or before 07/31/2024.

Approval for release:



812-21

RICK WANNE, Director
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