



CalFresh ABAWD Verifications Exemptions & Work Activities

September 2018

CalFresh recipients between the ages of 18 and 49 who do not reside with a child under 18 are deemed to be able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) and may be subject to a 3-month time limit. California’s statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit expired on August 31, 2018. All counties except San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Mateo counties have received an area waiver until August 31, 2019. The state has submitted a request for all counties that meet federal waiver eligibility between September 1, 2019 and August 31, 2020, which excludes Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. CalFresh recipients subject to the ABAWD time limit are only eligible for benefits for three full months out of a 36-month period unless they are exempt or meet the work requirement. Below is a chart of the exemption and compliance verifications necessary to document ABAWD CalFresh Eligibility.

EXEMPTION	VERIFICATION REQUIRED
Living in an area with a geographic waiver	
Proof of living in an area that has been approved by the USDA to have an area waiver. For information about area waivers to the, go to: http://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/CalFresh/ABAWD	None. If they are receiving benefits from a waived county, they are not subject to the time limit.
Pregnancy	
Pregnant	Client statement is accepted unless questionable, then medical verification can be requested.
Work registration exemptions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for caring for an incapacitated person 	Client statement is acceptable. Note: the incapacitated person does not have to a CF member or living in the home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied for or receiving unemployment insurance benefits 	If questionable, the county will verify with the EDD office.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receiving weekly earnings (from a job or self-employment) equal to or greater than federal min. wage multiplied by 20 hrs 	Verifications include pay stub, letter from employer, etc. If none is available the county must accept a statement from the client.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migrant or seasonal farm workers under contract to begin work in the next 30 days who’ll work 30hrs/ week or earn wage equal to federal minimum wage multiplied by 30 hours (\$217.50) 	Proceed as usual with income verifications. Possible verifications include pay stub, letter from employer, etc. If none is available the county may accept an affidavit from the client.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolled in school, training program or institution of higher ed. at least half time 	School enrollment verification.

EXEMPTION	VERIFICATION REQUIRED
Physically or mentally unable to consistently work 80 hours a month (6 subcategories)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applied/receiving temporary or permanent public or private disability benefits 	If this is not already known by the county, then documentation of a receiving or pending application should be provided.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obviously unfit or unable to work based on eligibility worker observation/judgement. 	None, the eligibility worker will document the exemption in the case file. A person who is chronically homeless or suffering from chronic hunger cannot be automatically determined unfit for work, but these facts can be factored into the county worker's determination.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medically certified as unable to work for 80 hours a month 	A written or verbal statement from a "Qualified medical or mental health professional" can be accepted. If it is not available, a collateral contact statement can be accepted. Qualified medical or mental health professionals include, but are not limited to, any of the following: audiologist, dentist, designated representative of the physician's office, drug and/or alcohol counselor, mental health counselor, midwife, nurse, nurse practitioner, occupational therapist, optometrist, orthodontist, osteopath, psychologist, physical therapist, physician, physician's assistant, podiatrist, social worker, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to work due to alcohol or drug addiction 	Can provide evidence of participating in a treatment program or a written or verbal statement from a health professional can be requested.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in an Office of Refugee Resettlement Training Program 	Provide verification of participation, collateral contact statements are accepted.
15% Waiver Exemption	
Some people deemed ABAWD will be assigned a "15% waiver." Please consult the county to determine how they will assign 15% waivers.	Verification will depend on how the county determines it will assign a 15% waiver.

WORK ACTIVITY	VERIFICATION REQUIRED
Employment, self-employment, in-kind work in exchange for goods or services for average of 80 hours per month.	Possible verifications include pay stub, letter from employer, etc. If none is available the county must accept an affidavit from the client.
Community service, volunteer work or workfare equal to the number of hours equal to the	Verified via a written statement that includes the number of hours volunteered and the signature of an organization representative. The county

household's SNAP allotment by local minimum wage.	can also accept a verbal statement from the organization.
CalFresh Employment & Training (E&T) components	No verification required. This information is known to the county.
A program under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Programs in your area can be found here: http://www.edd.ca.gov/jobs_and_training/Eligible_Training_Provider_List.htm	Provide verification of participation, collateral contact statements are accepted. This might be known to the county if the WIOA activity is provided through the county E&T program
A program under section 236 of the Trade Act of 1974- including Trade Adjustment Act programs and EDD training programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.edd.ca.gov/jobs_and_training/Trade_Act.htm • https://www.edd.ca.gov/Training/Training_Information.htm 	Provide verification of participation, collateral contact statements are accepted.
Workfare participation	This information is likely known to the county. If the client is participating in self-initiated workfare they will need to provide a signed verification of the volunteer work hours performed form.

Good Cause	
If unable to meet the work requirement because of a situation outside of the recipient's control, the county should grant good cause. Good cause can be granted for many reasons including, but not limited to, if a person was sick, had to take care of a sick family member, had an emergency, or lacked transportation. Good cause may also be applied when there is a declaration of a disaster.	There is no verification required, the eligibility worker will document the reason for good cause in the case record. When good cause is granted by a county worker, the adult will receive CalFresh benefits as if they had met the work requirement and will not have to use one of their three countable months.

About Western Center on Law and Poverty

Western Center on Law and Poverty leads the fight in the courts, counties, and capital to secure housing, health care and a strong safety net for low-income Californians. Learn more at: www.wclp.org. For more information about our CalFresh policy advocacy, contact: Jessica Bartholow at jbartholow@wclp.org or (916) 282-5119.