



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

April 30, 2013

Mr. Dennis Stewart, Division Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Western Region
Food and Nutrition Service
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is requesting a modification and extension of its Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver. The waiver would continue in all counties in California and would last for one year beginning October 1, 2013 and ending September 30, 2014. The waiver modification is based on a recent 12 month average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for January through December of 2012. Our waiver request along with supporting documentation is attached for review and consideration by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

California Welfare and Institutions Code, section 18926 requires CDSS to annually seek a federal waiver of the ABAWD work requirement for all eligible counties unless a county declines to participate in the waiver request. We will notify FNS of any county that elects not to take part in the waiver.

If you have any questions concerning this letter or our waiver request, please contact Larry Lewis, Manager, CalFresh Policy Unit C at (916) 651-5255.

Sincerely,

LINDA PATTERSON
CalFresh Branch

Attachments

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:**
2030034
2. **Type of request:**
Modification and Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation, if any:**
Section 6 (o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, P.L. 104-193.
4. **Secondary regulation citation, if any:**
7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(i)
5. **State:**
California
6. **Region:**
Western
7. **Regulatory requirements:**

Under 7 CFR 273.24(b) individuals are not eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
8. **Proposed procedures:**
California is requesting a modification and extension of its existing waiver to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to having an average unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for a period of 12 months, January-December 2012.

9. Justification for request:

This request to exempt residents residing in the entire State from the work requirements of 7 CFR 273.24 due to having insufficient jobs is based on the State having an unemployment rate exceeding 10 percent for calendar year 2012. 7 CFR 273.24 (f)(2)(i) states that for areas to be eligible for a waiver, "a State agency may submit evidence that an area has a recent 12 month average unemployment rate over 10 percent; a recent three month average unemployment rate over 10 percent; or an historical seasonal unemployment rate over 10 percent". For January-December 2012, California's unemployment rate was 10.5 percent.

State of California	12-month totals (not seasonally adjusted), January-December 2012:
Labor	221,938,580
Unemployment	23,214,401
12-month Unemployment Rate	10.5

10. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.

11. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

12. Signature and title of requesting official:

Linda Patterson, Cal Fresh Branch Chief

13. Date of request:

4/30/13

12-month unemployment rates, CA

12-month totals:

Labor	Oct-11 Sep-12	Nov-11 Oct-12	Dec-11 Nov-12	Jan-12 Dec-12	Feb-12 Jan-13	Mar-12 Feb-13
Unemployment	221,694,029 23,973,160	221,794,212 23,697,517	221,850,535 23,438,506	221,938,580 23,214,401	222,112,413 23,036,545	222,284,498 22,763,135
12-month Unemployment Rate	10.8	10.7	10.6	10.5	10.4	10.2