CalFresh Work and Community Engagement Requirements Update

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

CalFresh FOOD

Agenda

- What Changed Under the CalFresh Work and Community Engagement Requirements
- Who May be Affected
- Exemptions
- Ways of Meeting Work Requirements
- How Community Organizations Can Help

Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Time Limit Policy Changes

What Changed?

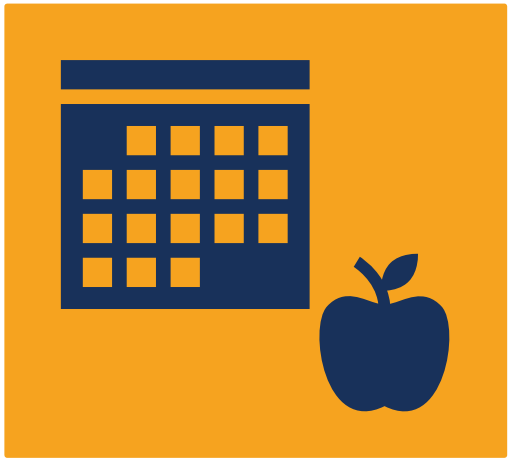
CalFresh Work Requirements Are Back

Effective June 1, 2026, Los Angeles County implemented the CalFresh ABAWD Time Limit Policy for non-exempt ABAWDS.

DPSS has been working with community organizations keep the community informed and expand our opportunities for participants to meet their work requirements.

What is the ABAWD Time Limit Policy?

- The ABAWD Time Limit is a Federal and State CalFresh Policy that limits certain adults to three months of CalFresh benefits within a 36-month period unless they meet an exemption or participate in qualifying work or work-related activities.



Who May Be Affected?

CalFresh participants may be subject to ABAWD time limit if they:

- Are ages 18-64
- Are physically and mentally fit for employment
- Do not live with a child under age 14 in their CalFresh household
- Do not qualify for an exemption

Exemptions

Individuals may be exempt by DPSS, if they are:

- Under 18 and over 64 years of age;
- Residing in a CalFresh household with a member under 14;
- Medically certified as mentally or physically unfit to work;
- Participating in the Office of Refugee Resettlement Training Program;
- Exempt from work registration;
- Pregnant;
- Indian, Urban Indian, California Indian or other Indians eligible for Indian Health Services; and
- Working 30 hours per week; or earning $217.50 weekly.

End of Temporary Exemptions

H.R. 1 removed the temporary exemptions previously scheduled to end in 2030:

The following groups are no longer automatically exempt:

1. Unhoused individuals
2. Veterans
3. Former Foster Youth
   (under 25 who were in care on their 18th birthday)

How to Meet Work Requirements

Non-exempt ABAWDs may meet work and community engagement requirements through one or a combination of the following qualifying activities:

- Employment (Paid employment, Self-employment, in-kind work)
- Training Programs (CFET, WIOA Programs, Trade Act Programs)
- Community Engagement (Volunteer Work, Community Service)
- Workfare (Required hours are based on the HH allotment divided by L.A. County Minimum Wage)

*Qualifying activities may generally be combined to meet the 20 hour per week/80 hours averaged monthly, except for Workfare, which cannot be combined with other activities.

Partnership Opportunities

DPSS is Seeking New Worksites for the Workfare and Community Service Activities!

Non-profit organizations interested in providing volunteer work opportunities to individuals who need to meet work requirements can reach out DPSS Work Requirements team for additional information. You may visit our website or email us:

https://dpss.lacounty.gov/en/jobs/wr.html
Workfare@dpss.lacounty.gov
CommtySvc@dpss.lacounty.gov

Community Partners – Information Sessions
https://communitypartners.org/landing-page/laworkfarehub/

Why This Matters

The population your organizations serve face challenges such as:

- Limited work history
- Housing instability
- Difficulty securing immediate employment
- Justice system involvement

Volunteer Opportunities Can Help participants:

- Meet their work requirements
- Maintain CalFresh benefits
- Build work experience
- Develop job skills
- Create pathways to employment

Organizations Can Help

Organizations can:

- Share the message with the population you serve
- Encourage individuals who may be impacted to check their mail and respond to DPSS notices
- If resources are available, connect individuals to employment and training programs
- If your organization has volunteer opportunities, consider becoming a worksite partner

Key Takeaways

Remember

1. Work requirements returned June 1, 2026
2. Not all CalFresh participants are subject to the ABAWD time limit
3. Non-exempt ABAWDs generally need 20 hours per week, or 80 hours averaged monthly in qualifying activities, unless participating in Workfare
4. Community organizations can help participants stay informed
5. Consider partnering with DPSS to provide volunteer opportunities to this population

Questions and Answers

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