

BREAKOUT SESSION 4
**ABAWD IN TUNE:
NAVIGATING POLICY, SYSTEMS,
AND COUNTY IMPACT**





MICHELE PETERSON

CalSAWS Test & Release Management Director

Band Leader/Piano



CAROLINE BUI

CalSAWS Policy and Design Lead

Lead Singer



AMBER BONILLA

CDSS CalFresh Policy Section Chief

Base Violin



FEAT: YOLANDA BARRAGAN

Santa Clara County Associate IT Business Analyst

Rhythm



FEAT: DARLENE BELTRAN

San Diego County Chief Self-Sufficiency Services

Piano

BREAKOUT SESSION 4: PRESENTER ENSEMBLE

NINTH CORD NAVIGATORS



Welcome & Session Overview
CDSS - ABAWD Policy and Tools
CalSAWS - HR 1 System Enhancements & Implementation
County - Preparing for Go-Live
Resources and Close



CDSS

ABAWD POLICY CHANGES AND IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES

ABAWD TIME LIMIT POLICY CHANGES

The Refrain

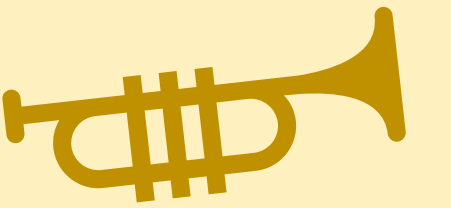
Waiver Criteria

- ♪ Waivers limited to areas with 10% unemployment rate or higher
- ♪ Eliminates waivers based on lack of sufficient jobs



Age Requirements

- ♪ Increases the upper limit of the ABAWD age range from 54 to 64



New & Modified Exemption Criteria

- ♪ Adds new exemption category for Indians, Urban Indians, and California Indians
- ♪ Reduces the age range for a dependent child from 18 to 14

Eliminated Exemption Criteria

- ♪ Eliminates exemptions for veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, and individuals under age 24 and in foster care on their 18th birthday

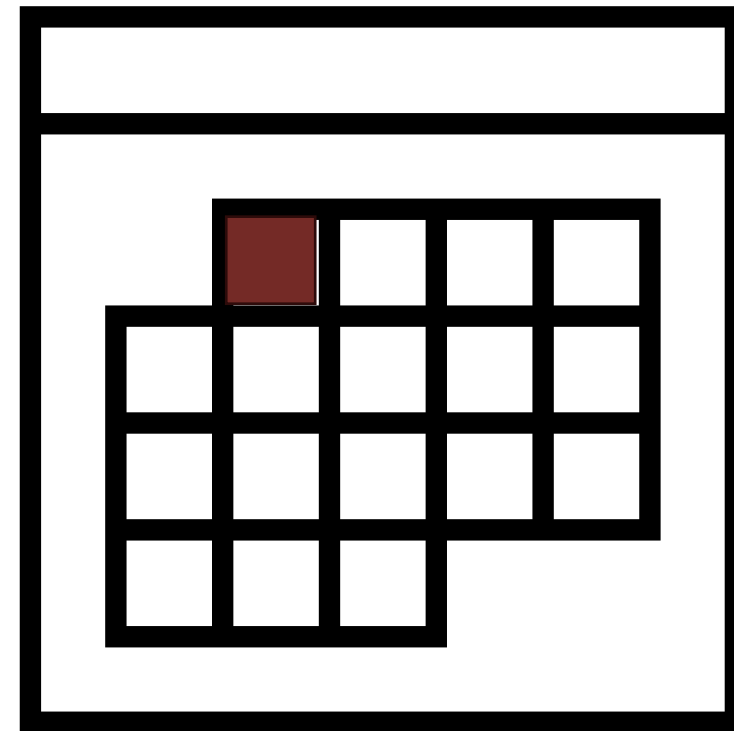


IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Opening Night



Effective **June 1, 2026**,
counties will apply the new HR 1 eligibility criteria at initial application for new households and at recertification for ongoing households



TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Ensemble



Policy
Guidance

Policy Guidance

- ♪ [ACL 25-79](#) – ABAWD Waiver
- ♪ [ACL 25-93](#) – ABAWD HR 1
- ♪ [ACL 25-93E](#) – ABAWD HR 1 Errata
- ♪ [ACL 26-15](#) – ABAWD Waiver pt. 2
- ♪ [ACL 26-29](#) – ABAWD Handbook 3.0
- ♪ [ACIN I-14-26](#) – ABAWD HR1 Q&A



Webinar
Training
Series

Webinar Training Series

- ♪ Part 1 – Work Registration 101
- ♪ Part 2 – ABAWD 101
- ♪ Part 3 – ABAWD Engagement



TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Ensemble



ABAWD
Office
Hours

ABAWD Office Hours

- ♪ Six sessions held
- ♪ Open Q&A
- ♪ Questions archived



Outreach
Toolkit

Digital Outreach Toolkit

- ♪ Checklist
- ♪ Factsheet
- ♪ FAQ
- ♪ Flyer
- ♪ Social Media Posts



TOOLS AND RESOURCES

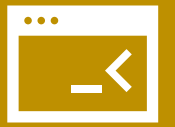
Ensemble



SharePoint
Site

County SharePoint Site

- ♪ Q&As
- ♪ Readiness Checklists
- ♪ Webinar recordings and materials
- ♪ Links to federal policy



Automation
Support

Automation Support

- ♪ ABAWD Screening Page
- ♪ Updated Exemptions



TOOLS AND RESOURCES

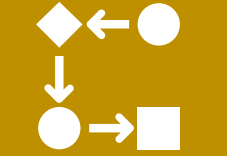
Ensemble



Stakeholder
Engagement

Stakeholder Engagement

- ♪ HR 1 Advisory Group
- ♪ HR 1 County Operations Workgroup
- ♪ Ad Hoc Sessions – Client Messaging



County
Operations

County Operations

- ♪ Technical Assistance Tools



AUTOMATED CDSS ABAWD EXEMPTIONS

CDSS is working with other CalHHS departments to use existing administrative data sources to automate exemptions where appropriate

Includes data being used for Medi-Cal work and community engagement exemptions

Based on a monthly data match, CalSAWS will automatically apply an ABAWD exemption to qualified individuals

No additional screening or verification is required

Automation is targeted for August 2026





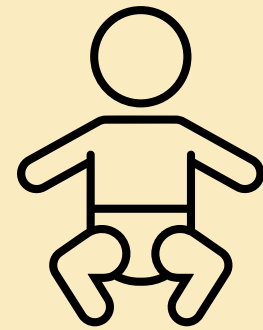
CALSAWS

HR 1 SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS & IMPLEMENTATION

HR 1 ABAWD ENHANCEMENTS



Cares for Child Under 6

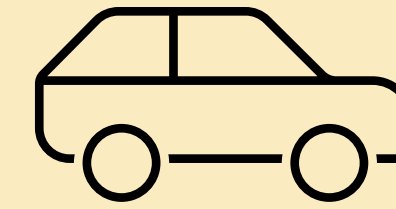


Insure the 'Child under 6' exemption is applied correctly by checking if the child is 'In the Home' and individual has parental control. Workers can manually set this exemption when the child under 6 is out of the home.

CA-298215

July 20, 2026

CDSS ABAWD Auto Exemption



CalSAWS will automatically apply exemptions identified by CDSS using various statewide administrative data sources to identify ABAWD individuals who are exempt from work requirements.

CA-300398

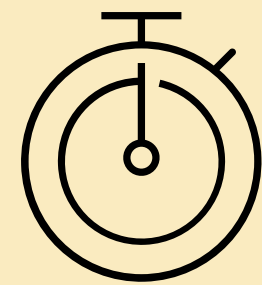
August 2026



HR 1 ABAWD ENHANCEMENTS



Farmworker Exemption/ Student Hours



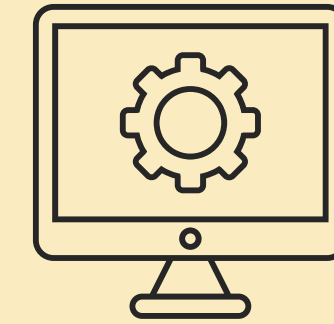
Add 'Migrant or seasonal farmworker meeting hours' work registration exemption

Allow users to capture hours on School Attendance page when the individual is attending less than half time

CA-298982

September 21, 2026

ABAWD Summary Page



Add new page to display consolidated view of ABAWD outcomes related to screening and qualifying work activities for non-exempt ABAWDs

CA-299610

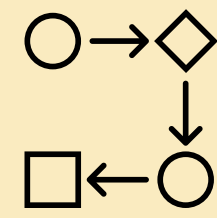
September 21, 2026



HR 1 ABAWD ENHANCEMENTS



CF 887/CF 888



To streamline online navigation for ABAWD:

- Add CF 887 button on the Medical Conditions page
- Add CF 888 button on the Non-Scheduled Work Activity Detail page
- Include School Attendance hours on ABAWD Summary page

CA-297868

November 23, 2026

Discretionary Exemptions



Allow counties to track the allocation and use of ABAWD Discretionary Exemptions

CA-299535

January 18, 2027





CONTRA COSTA PREPARING FOR GO-LIVE

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY IMPACT



Staying up to date
with System
Changes



Use of our
Regional Manager



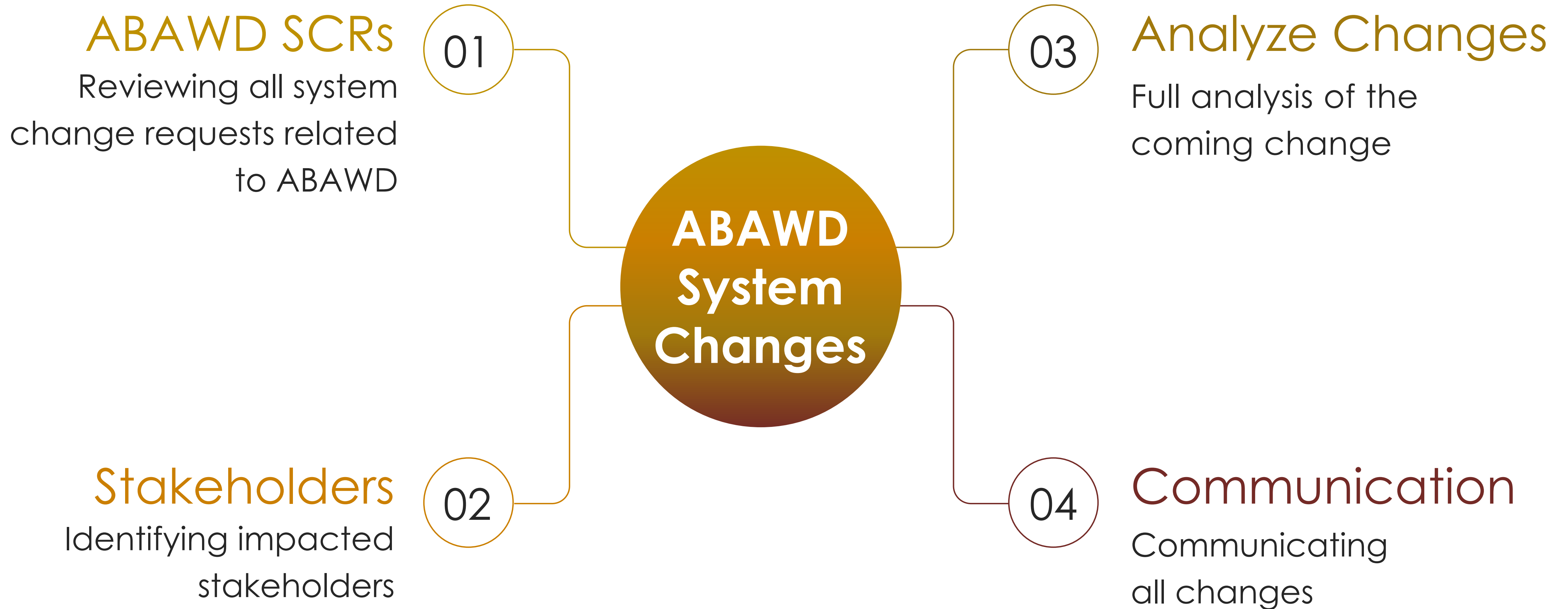
Internal
collaboration



Challenges



STAYING UP TO DATE WITH SYSTEM CHANGES



USE OF OUR REGIONAL MANAGERS

Region 1



Communication

Open communication with our R1 Managers



Network

Crucial to network amongst counties both within and outside our region



Materials

Ability share ABAWD material both with internal and external teams



INTERNAL COLLABORATION



Mid 2025, we began meeting with our internal Policy, Staff Development, Systems and Operational teams



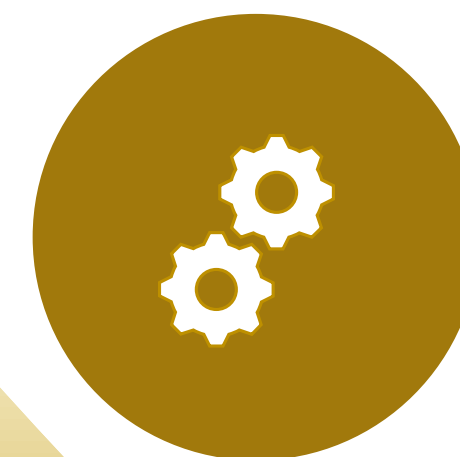
Consistent information to all stakeholders impacted by the changes



Staff Development created ABAWD trainings and began the vetting process with both policy and systems



Collaborated with our internal operations and application development team to create an internal ABAWD Report

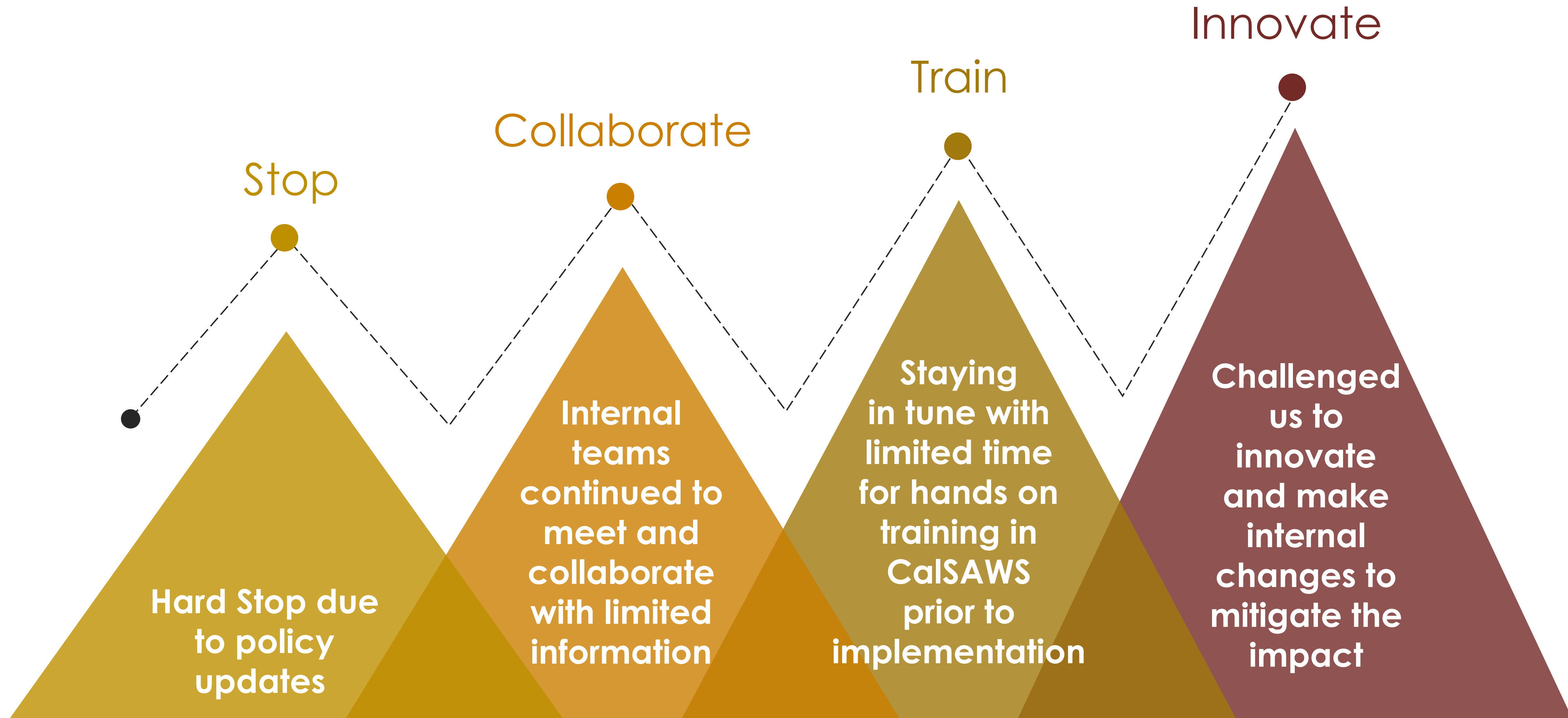


We began to get ready for the 02/2026 implementation date



CHALLENGES

How we faced our challenges





SAN DIEGO
PREPARING FOR GO-LIVE

Coordinated Countywide Strategy

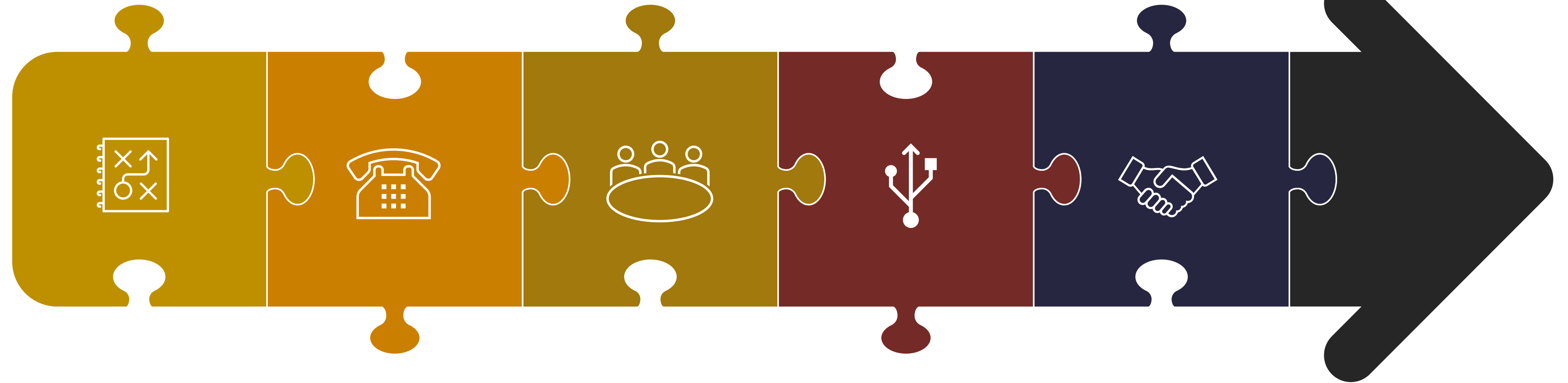
Formed Incident Command Center; Board of Supervisors Safety Net Ad Hoc Subcommittee; Planning to address the most significant impacts of HR1

Statewide Engagement & Advocacy

Coordinating with the State, other counties, and CBOs to shape implementation, share solutions, and secure resources

Cross-Sector and Community Partnerships

Leveraging new and existing partnerships to help keep people enrolled in their benefits



Proactive Customer Service & Communication

Maintaining excellent customer service and encouraging customers to keep contact information up-to-date; Launched new webpage and preparing mass notification plan

Technology, AI, and Data Solutions

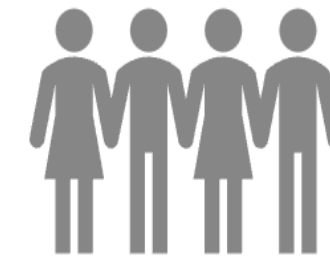
Exploring tools to reduce barriers for customers and staff; Advocating for system improvements statewide; Developing reporting tools to respond effectively





Inform

Share information with your clients and staff: [CalFresh and Medi-Cal Changes Self-Sufficiency Programs website](#)



Create or Promote Volunteer Opportunities

Partner with organizations that promote volunteer opportunities like [HandsOn San Diego](#)



Enrollment Support

See if your organization is a good fit for the [Access CBO Line](#)
Request the [Live Well on Wheels](#) for events



Stay Engaged

Sign up for [Enewsletter Updates](#)



Create or Promote Work Opportunities

List open job opportunities with San Diego Workforce Partnership (SDWP) [Employer Job Posting Website](#)
See if you are a good fit to [Become an Eligible Training Provider](#) with SDWP



Request HR1 Presentation

[Request a presentation](#)

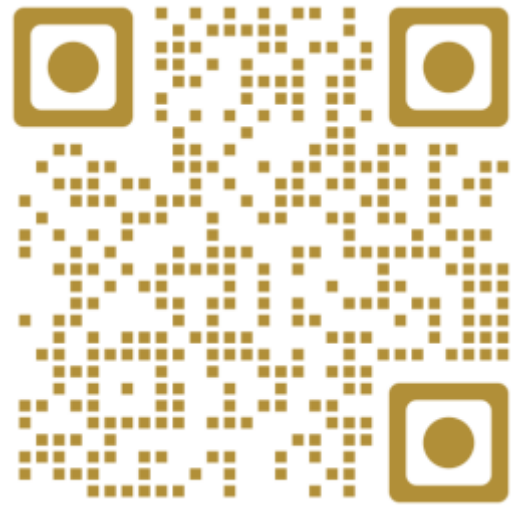
Check out the [CalFresh/Medi-Cal Changes Toolkit](#) and [Community Partner Resource Toolkit](#)



KEY MESSAGES FOR IMPACTED POPULATIONS

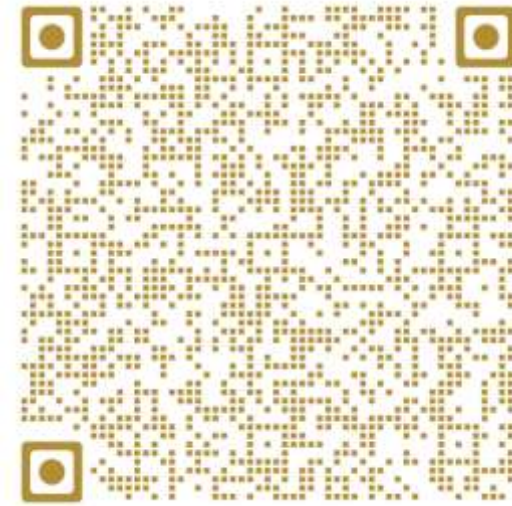


BenefitsCal Account: Update contact info



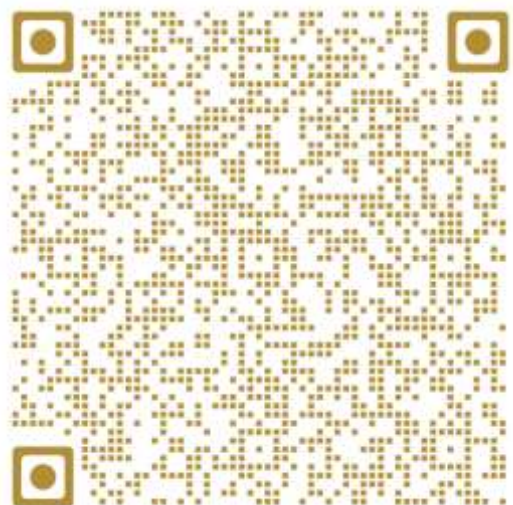
Visit your [BenefitsCal](#) account and make sure your contact information is up to date

Family Resource Centers: Benefits Support (in-person support)



Visit a [Family Resource Center](#)

Website



Visit the [Changes to CalFresh and Medi-Cal webpage](#) to view changes to benefits

Access Customer Service: Benefits Support (phone support)



Call 1-866-262-9881

If someone is impacted by these changes, they will be contacted or informed during their intake interview or next re-certification



ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY & FOOD RESOURCES




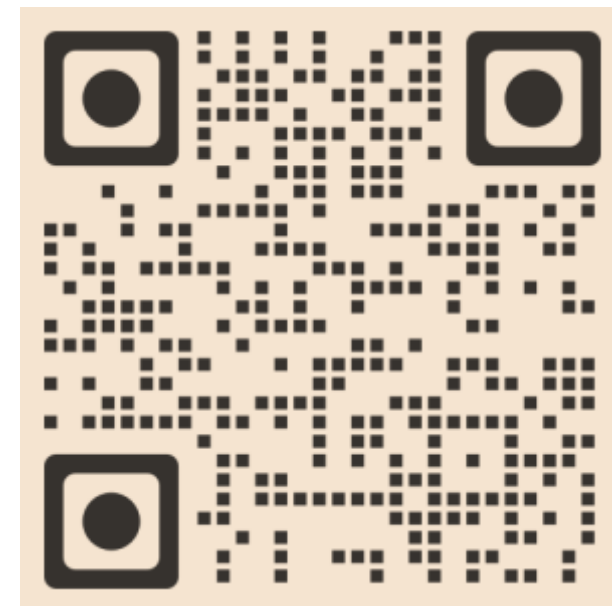
[Self-Sufficiency Programs](#)

(866) 262-9881




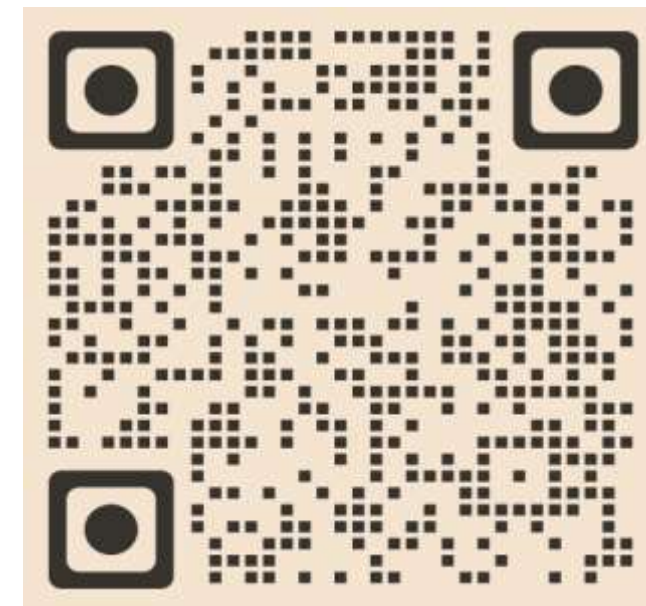
211sandiego.org

 2-1-1




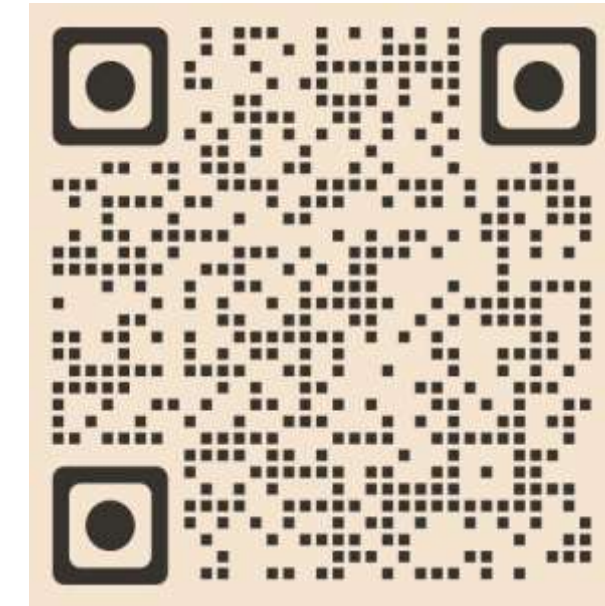
[Feeding San Diego](#)

 (858) 452-3663



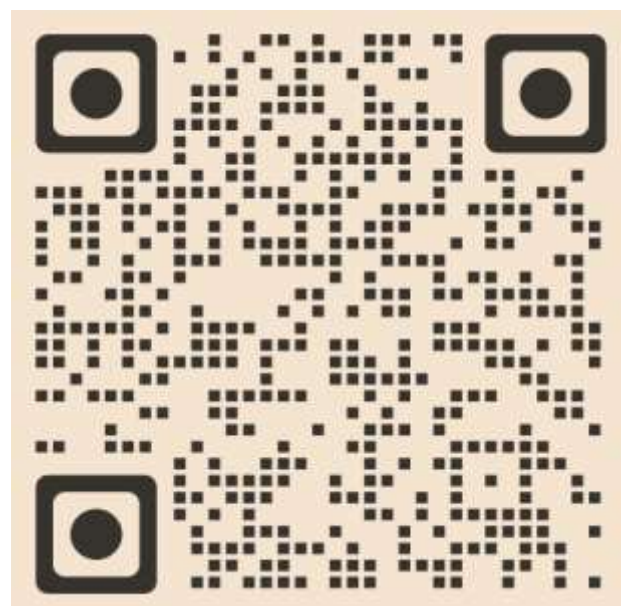
[San Diego Food Bank](#)

 (858) 527-1419



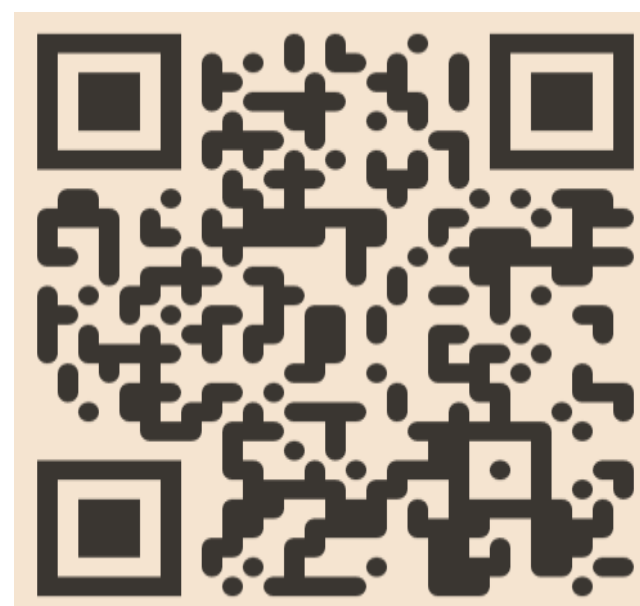
[San Diego Hunger Coalition](#)

 (619) 323-2841




[Catholic Charities](#)

 (619) 323-2841




[Jewish Family Service](#)

 (858) 637-3210



[San Diego Workforce Partnership](#)

 (619) 319-9675



[HandsOn San Diego](#)

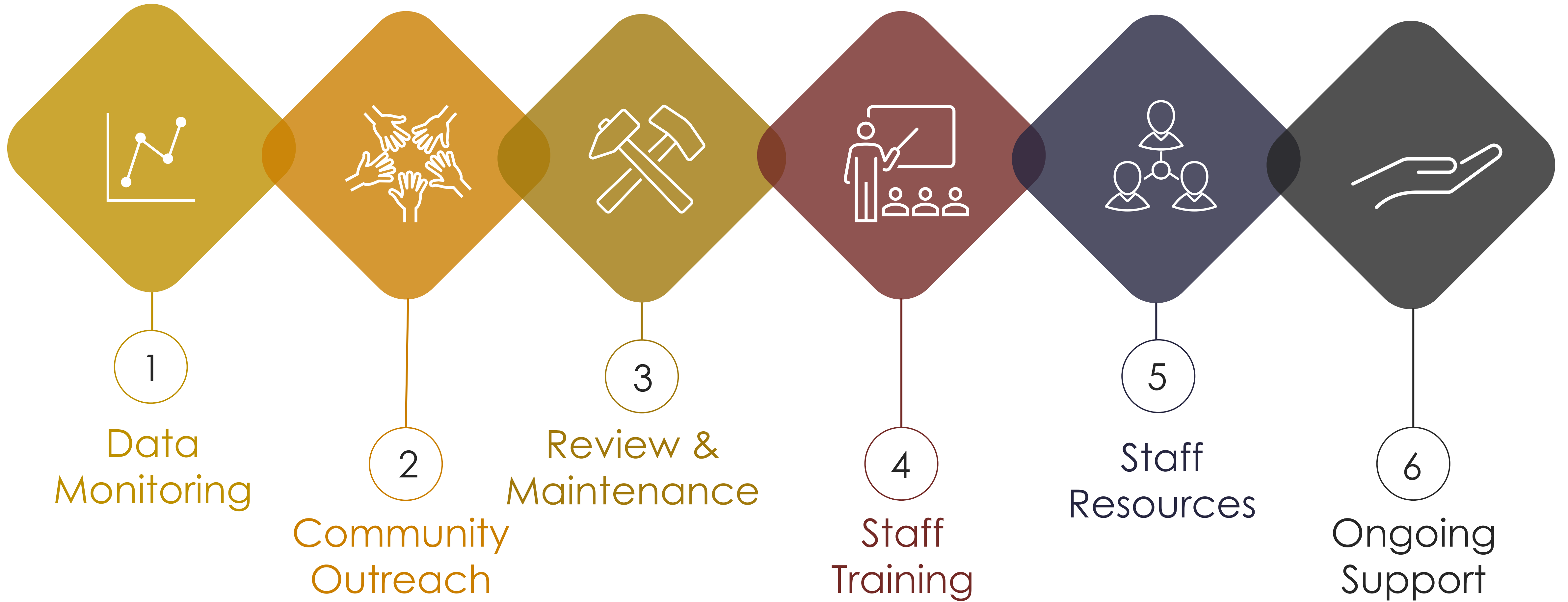




SANTA CLARA

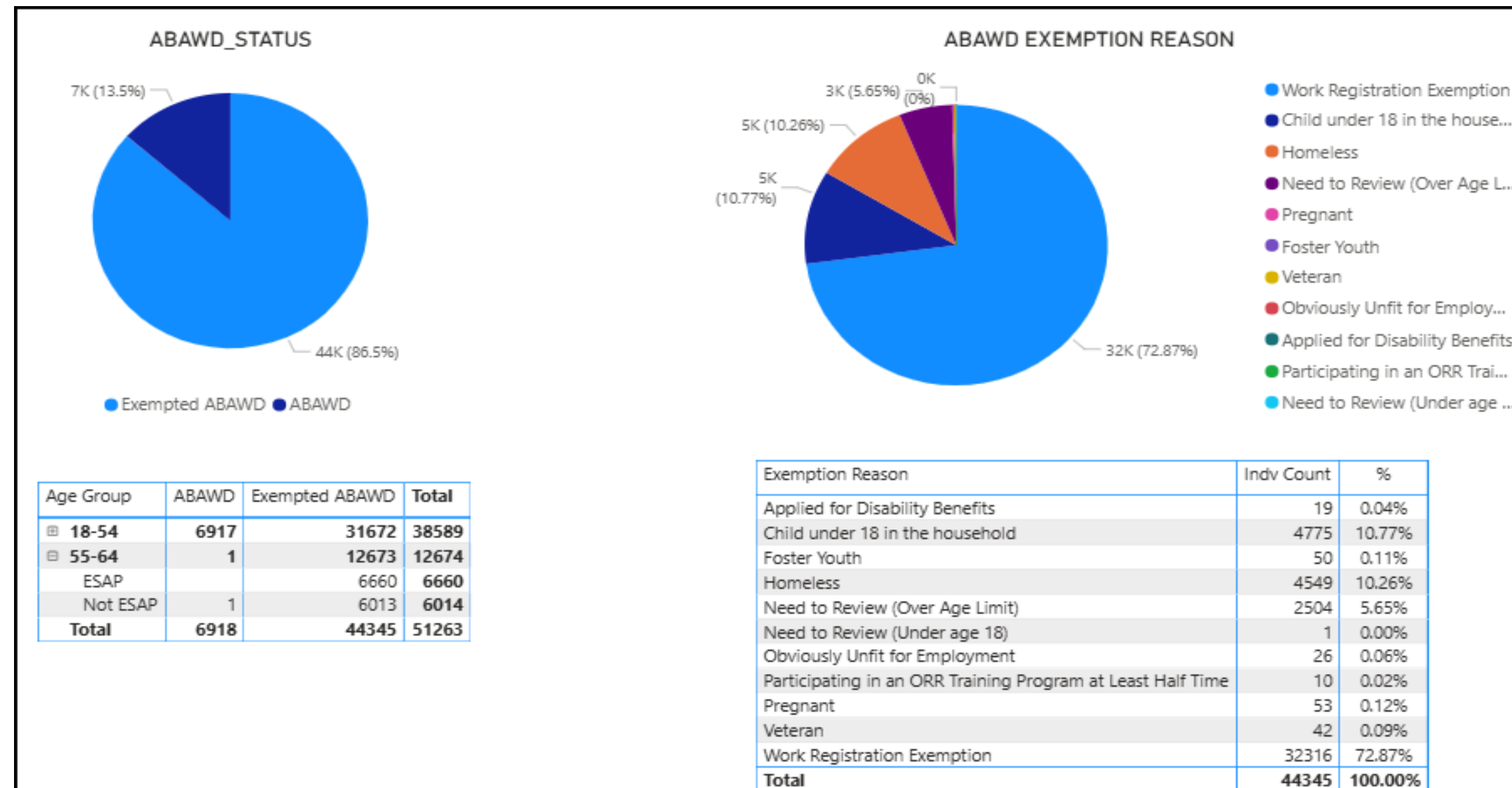
PREPARING FOR GO-LIVE

SANTA CLARA



DATA MONITORING

ABAWD Dashboard



ABAWDs

Individuals impacted by ABAWD Work Rules



ABAWD Exemption

Individuals identified as meeting an exemption (Pre/Post HR1 changes)



HR 1 Population

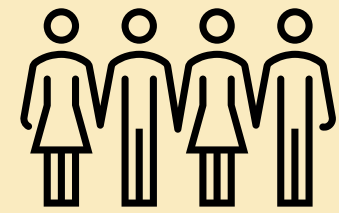
Individuals identified have an RE due in 06/2026 to grasp how many cases will be required to be screened and potentially impacted



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

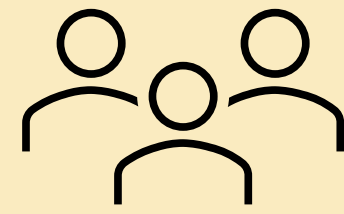


Phase 1



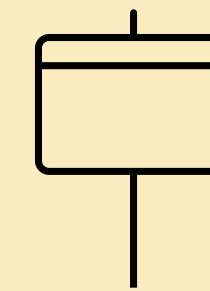
Clients identified as non-exempt ABAWDS

Phase 2



Clients identified as losing ABAWD exemption status or newly subject to ABAWD requirements due to HR1 changes

Reinforcements



- Flyers in District Office Lobbies
- Social Media Posts
- Public Health Presentations




REVIEW & MAINTENANCE

Two dedicated units were established to engage with ABAWD individuals who are not exempt and did not meet the requirements in months 2 and 3

- 01 Community Service Outreach
- 02 Review Participation Options
- 03 Provide Clients a list of Organizations

Community Service Self-Placement Sites



Contact Us
If you need assistance finding a community service placement or would like to contact an Employment Counselor, call 408.758.3700

Santa Clara County Social Services Agency
ssa.santaclaracounty.gov/home

Dept. of Employment and Benefit Services
ssa.santaclaracounty.gov/DEBS

Milpitas


Bay Area Tutoring Association
408 945-8003
[Online And In-Person Tutoring | Bay Area Tutoring Association](#)
510 Valley Way, Milpitas, CA,95035
Additional Information: Contact CBO

Dress for Success
(408) 935-8299
[Worldwide | Dress for Success](#)
504 Valley Way, Milpitas, CA,95035
Additional Information: Contact CBO

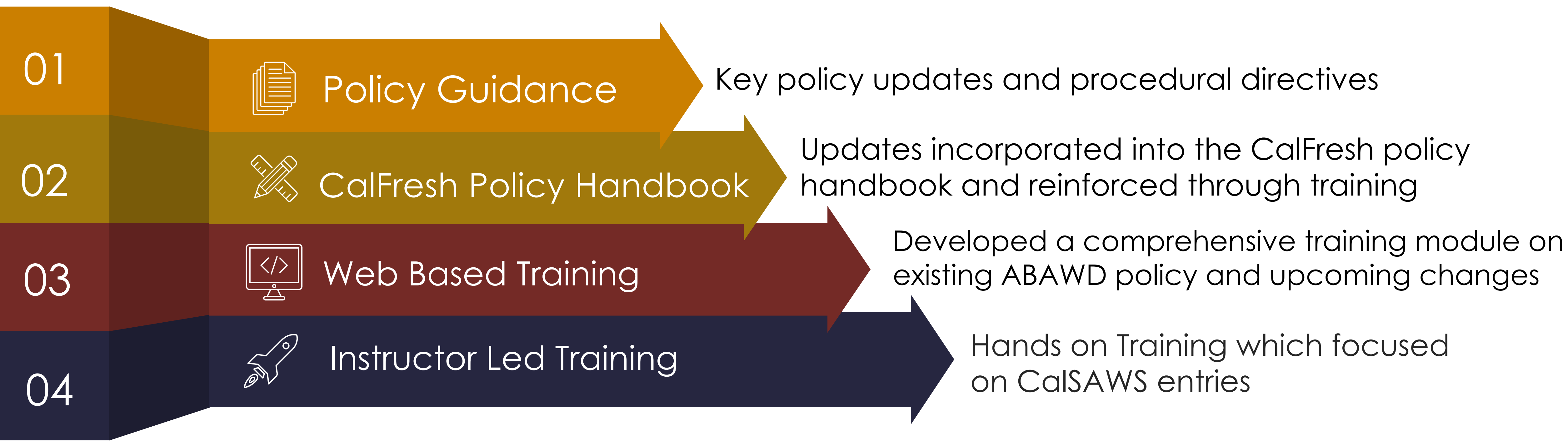
Home First
408-539-2100
[Housing Services, Assistance & Shelters in San Jose | HomeFirst](#)
507 Valley Way, Milpitas, CA,95035
Additional Information: Contact CBO

ICAN
(408) 509-1958
[ICAN](#)
890 Hillview Ct, Suite 100, Milpitas, CA,95035
Additional Information: ICAN Headquarters in Milpitas; ICAN Family Resource Center in San Jose (95122)

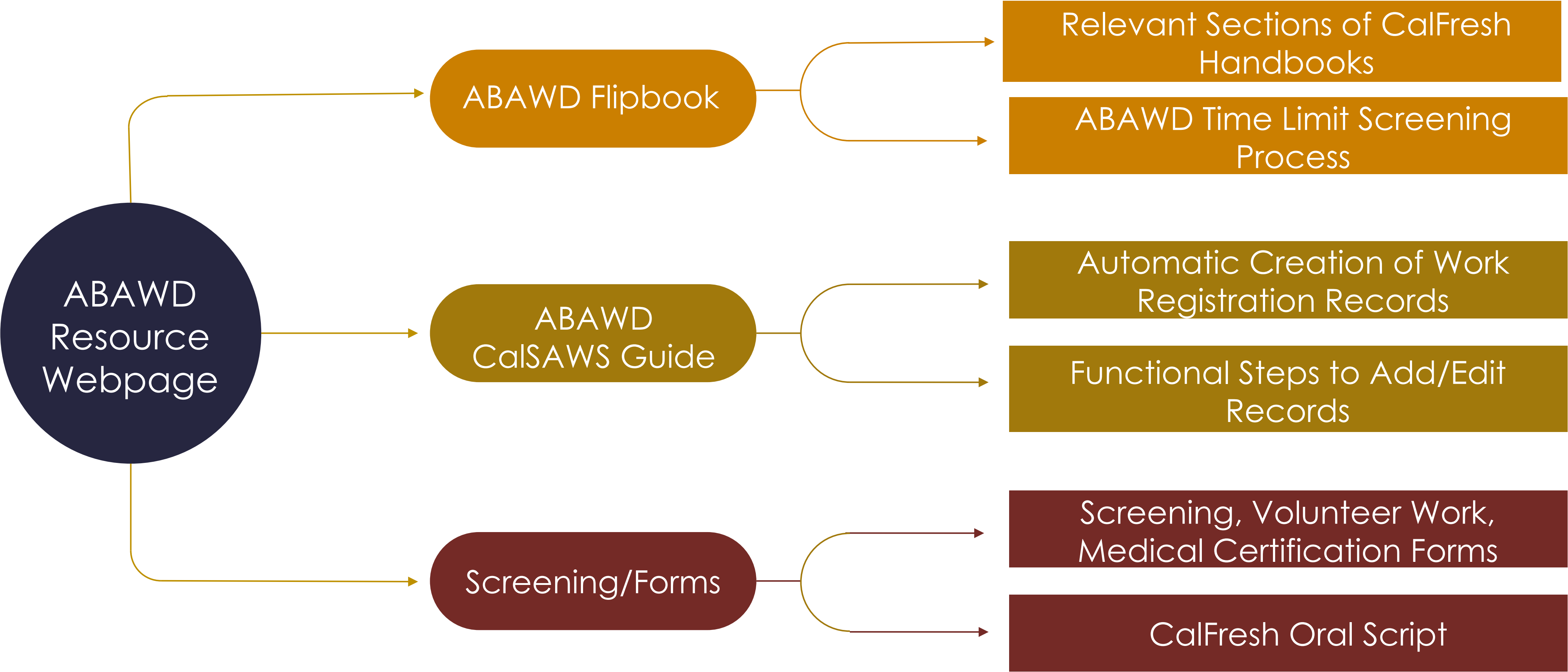
Milpitas Food Pantry
408-946-5564
[Milpitas Food Pantry - Emergency Food & Food Assistance For Residents of Milpitas & Alviso](#)
440 S. Main St. Milpitas, CA,95035
Additional Information: Contact CBO



STAFF TRAINING



To support staff learning and reference, ABAWD-related materials were consolidated into one location



ONGOING MONITORING / SUPPORT



Listings

Listings for actions/review needed will be developed to capture Individuals turning 18 who will need to be evaluated for ABAWD Work Requirements

Virtual Support

Ongoing support to staff to enhance efficiency and collaborate in a remote environment

Communication

Continue to communicate with staff timely with up-to-date information regarding policy updates/CalSAWS enhancements





ABAWD RESOURCES

On the CalSAWS Communication Portal

Job Aid-ABAWD

- ♪ CalSAWS Learning Management System (LMS)
- ♪ CalSAWS system through the Help link

Quick Guide-ABAWD

- ♪ CalSAWS Learning Management System (LMS)

Demonstrations

♪ ABAWD CalSAWS Learning Exchange-Oct 2025

CalSAWS Communication Portal > Communications and Resources > Collaborations > CalSAWS Learning Exchange > ABAWD 10-2025

♪ H.R.1 ABAWD Changes-May 2026

CalSAWS Communication Portal > Communications and Resources > Release Management > Release Communications > 2026 Releases > Release 26.05 > CA-294575 Stand Alone Webcast



WE'D LOVE TO JAM WITH YOU!



ANY QUESTIONS ON ABAWD AND
NAVIGATING POLICY, SYSTEMS, AND
COUNTY IMPACT?





THANK YOU
FOR ATTENDING!





Jazz

SET BREAK

PLENARY SESSION 3 STARTS AT 3:45 PM